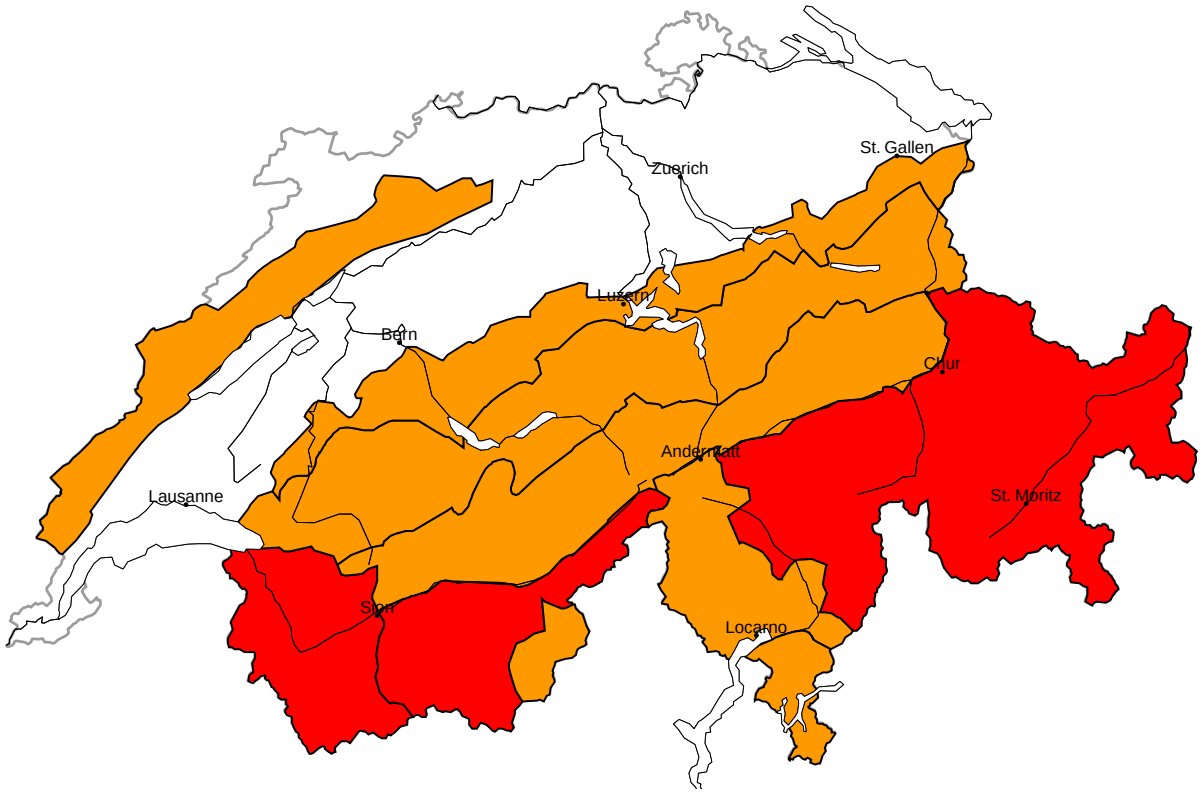
Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 20. February 2026

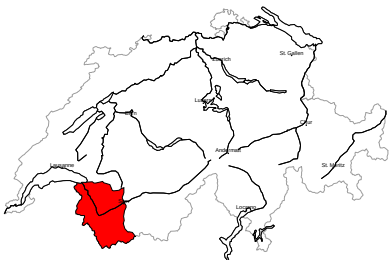
Avalanche danger

updated on 20.2.2026, 08:00



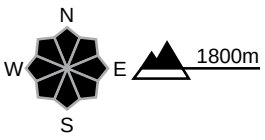
region A

High (4-)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. As a consequence of new snow and wind, further wind slabs formed. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can release deeper layers of the snowpack.
Individual very large natural avalanches are possible. In the typical avalanche paths these can reach as far as the valley bottom and endanger transportation routes that are exposed.
The conditions are dangerous for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

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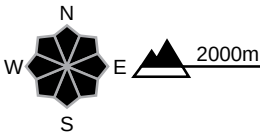
region B — High (4-)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

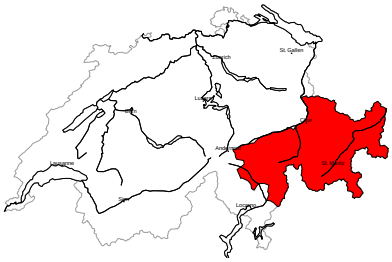
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

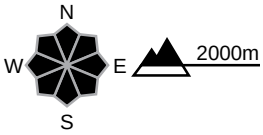
The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. To some extent avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. This applies in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. Natural avalanches, capable of reaching the valleys, must be expected now only rarely.
The conditions are dangerous for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

region C — High (4-)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

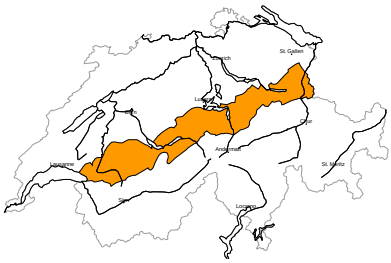
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

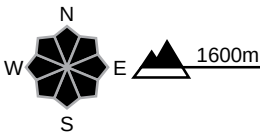
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released very easily. They can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds and fresh avalanches indicate the danger. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Natural avalanches are still possible.
The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. The conditions are dangerous for backcountry touring outside marked and open pistes.

region D — Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach large size. Natural avalanches are still possible in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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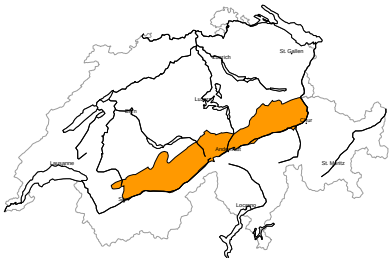
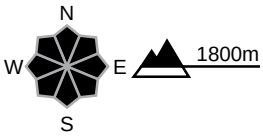
region E

Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

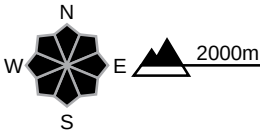
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. As a consequence of new snow and wind the wind slabs will increase in size once again. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. In addition individual natural avalanches are possible. These can reach very large size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region F

Considerable (3+)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

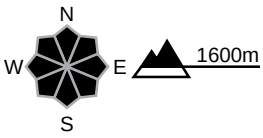
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released easily. They can be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region G

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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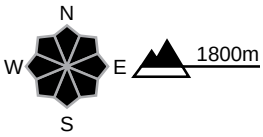
region H

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

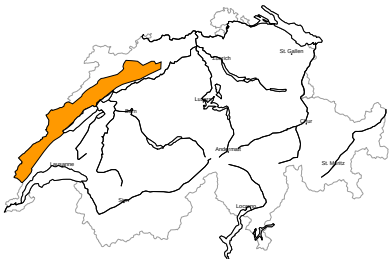


Danger description

As a consequence of northerly wind, clearly visible wind slabs will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. In particular on shady slopes these can penetrate even deep layers and reach medium size.
Careful route selection is advisable.

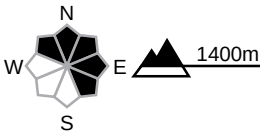
region I

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They can be released even by a single winter sport participant. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.2.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

In the north-west and north, last week's thick layers of fresh and drifted snow are settling and consolidating. Thin layers of fresh and drifted snow from Thursday are lying on these, and the underlying old snowpack has weak layers in places in the middle part of the snowpack. Avalanches triggered in near-surface layers can sometimes propagate into these deeper layers of old snow and occasionally become very large. This is particularly the case in the extreme west of Lower Valais and on the northern Alpine ridge.
The past week's layers of fresh and drifted snow are thinner in Ticino, Grisons and some regions in southern Valais than they are further north. They are lying on an unstable old snowpack with pronounced weak layers. People can still very easily trigger avalanches in the old snowpack in these regions, even over relatively large distances.

Weather review for Thursday

During the night to Thursday, a short break in precipitation was followed by fresh precipitation from the south-west. The snowfall level was between 800 m on the southern flank of the Alps and 1400 m on the western part of the northern flank of the Alps.

Fresh snow
From Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon, above approximately 1600 m:
- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern and extreme west of Lower Valais, central and southern Ticino, Upper Engadine and neighbouring central Grisons, Val Poschiavo: 15 to 30 cm
- otherwise mostly 5 to 15 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -4 °C

Wind
- Overnight to Thursday moderate to strong from southerly directions
- During the day initially light to moderate, then moderate to strong from westerly directions

Weather forecast to Friday

North of the Main Alpine Ridge, conditions will be very cloudy with persistent snowfall at times. There will be less snowfall and brighter periods in the inneralpine regions. Conditions will be mostly sunny south of the Main Alpine Ridge.

Fresh snow
The snowfall level will be around 1000 m. The following amounts of snow will fall from Thursday afternoon to Friday afternoon:
- western Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 15 to 30 cm, with up to 40 cm in some places in the extreme west of Lower Valais and along the northern Alpine ridge
- western Jura, other parts of Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, central Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- elsewhere less; mostly dry on the southern flank of the Alps

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the north and +1 °C in the south

Wind
Northwesterly:
- strong, storm-force at times on the northern and main Alpine ridges
- elsewhere mostly moderate at high altitudes

Moderate to strong northerly on the southern flank of the Alps, down into the valleys

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Outlook to Sunday

Saturday
In the north, conditions will be mostly very cloudy with precipitation especially on the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps until midday. The snowfall level will rise from 1000 to 1400 m, in the west to 1600 m. In Valais, conditions will become increasingly sunny over the second half of the day, with brighter spells on the western part of the northern flank of the Alps. The southern flank of the Alps will be mostly sunny. The mountains will see a moderate to strong, occasionally storm-force northwesterly wind.
Avalanche danger will decrease slowly. In western and northern regions with a lot of snow, people may trigger avalanches, especially in the near-surface layers of the snowpack. In southern Valais, northern Ticino and Grisons, avalanche danger will decrease only very slowly due to the thinner snow cover on the very weak old snowpack. In these regions, conditions for touring and off-piste skiing will remain critical in many places.

Sunday
Conditions will be mostly sunny with extensive broken cloud, especially on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the Lower Engadine. The westerly wind will ease significantly, and temperatures will become markedly warmer.
Avalanche danger will decrease. Especially in southern Valais, northern Ticino and Grisons, but conditions for touring and off-piste skiing will remain critical in many places.