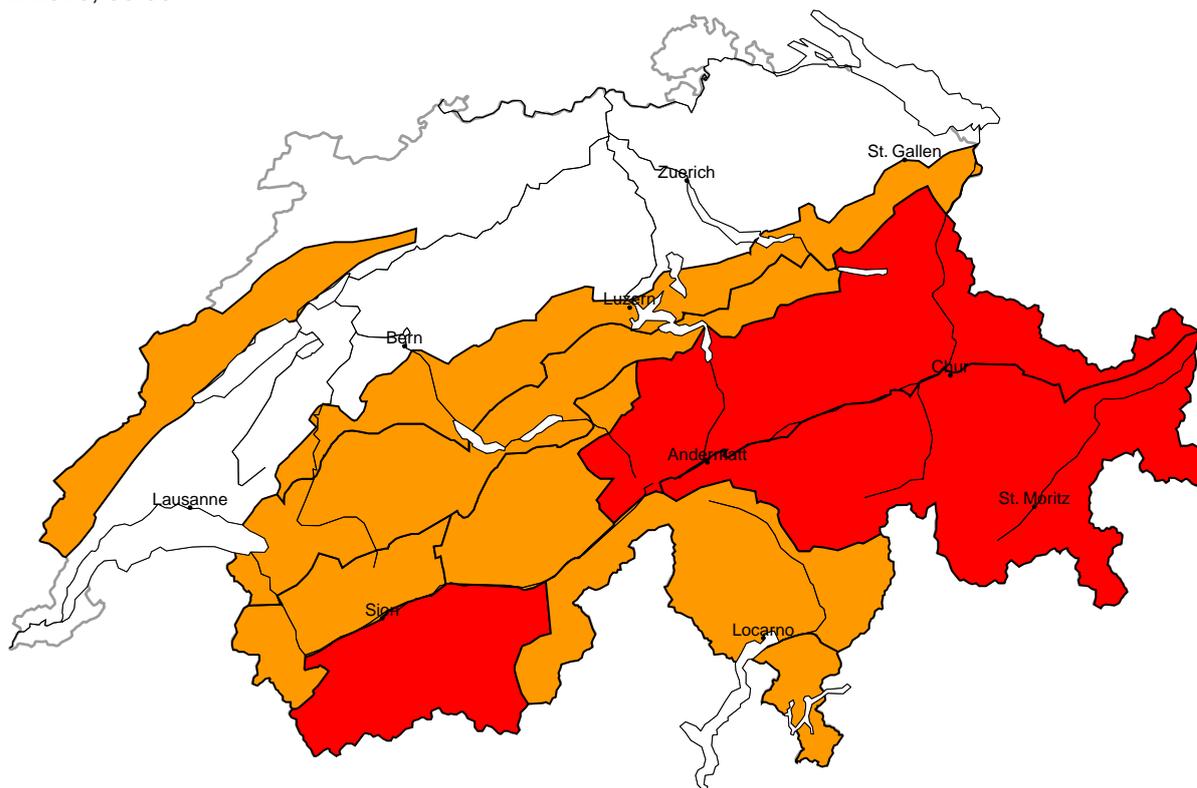


Avalanche danger

updated on 21.2.2026, 08:00



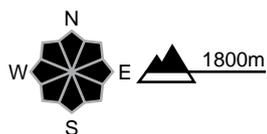
region A

High (4=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. Large natural avalanches are to be expected. As the day progresses very large natural avalanches must be expected more frequently. In the typical avalanche paths avalanches can in some cases reach the valleys 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



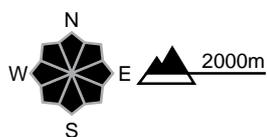
region B

High (4-)

Wind slab, 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. Whumpfung 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.

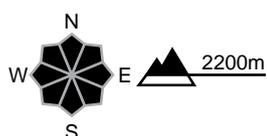
region C

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. Avalanches can in many places be released easily. In many cases avalanches are large. The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. Only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected, but they can be very large.

The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

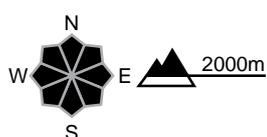
region D

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 the northwesterly wind the wind slabs will increase in size once again. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can release deeper layers of the snowpack. Only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected, but they can be very large.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.



1 low



2 moderate



3 considerable



4 high



5 very high

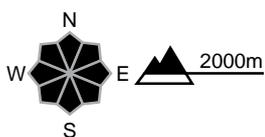
region E

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 the northwesterly wind the wind slabs will increase in size once again. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can release deeper layers of the snowpack. Individual natural avalanches are to be expected. These can reach very large size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

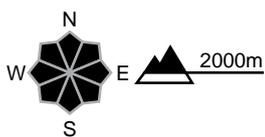
region F

Considerable (3+)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers



Avalanche prone locations



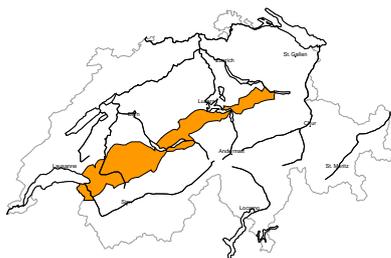
Danger description

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

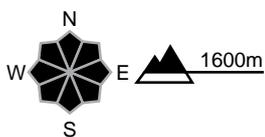
region G

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. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region H

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northerly wind, further wind slabs will form. The wind slabs are to be bypassed in very steep terrain. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. In particular on shady slopes these can penetrate even deep layers and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region I

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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. In many cases avalanches are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.



1 low



2 moderate



3 considerable



4 high



5 very high

Snowpack and weather

updated on 20.2.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

In the west and north, layers of fresh and drifted snow from the last two days are lying on the thick layers of fresh snow from the past week, which are increasingly consolidating. Below this, in these regions the central section of the old snowpack contains weak layers in places. Avalanches triggered in near-surface layers can sometimes take these deeper layers of old snowpack with them and can become very large at times. This applies in particular to the northern Alpine ridge.

In Ticino, Grisons and some regions of southern Valais, the layers of new and drifted snow from the past week are thinner than they are further north. They are lying on an unstable old snowpack with pronounced weak layers. In these regions, human activity can still trigger avalanches very easily in the old snowpack, even from great distances. Avalanches may currently also be triggered in the treeline area or in sparse forest.

Gliding avalanches are increasingly possible on steep grassy slopes below approximately 1800 m.

Weather review for Friday

It was overcast in the north. On Friday, it snowed until the early hours of the morning in particular, and especially on the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level was around 1000 m, and around 700 m on the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps. In the south, it cleared up during the night and was quite sunny during the day.

Fresh snow

From Thursday afternoon to midday on Friday, above approximately 1200 m:

- Vaud Alps, northern Lower Valais: 30 to 50 cm
- Rest of Lower Valais, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, not including the Prealps, northern Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun: 20 to 40 cm
- Otherwise less, largely dry south of the Main Alpine Ridge

Temperature

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

Wind

From the northwest

- Increasing during the night
- Strong to stormy during the day on the Main Alpine Ridge and on the northern Alpine ridge
- elsewhere mostly moderate at high altitudes

Weather forecast to Saturday

It will be very cloudy north of the Main Alpine Ridge. It will continue to snow. During the night there will be only light snowfall, mainly in the east. During the day, snowfall will be widespread, and intense on the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. Conditions will be mostly sunny south of the Main Alpine Ridge.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level will rise from 1000 to 1600 m. The following amounts of fresh snow are expected from Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon:

- Northern Alpine ridge from the Aletsch region to the Alpstein region, northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm
- Rest of northern flank of the Alps, rest of Valais, central Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere less; mostly dry on the southern flank of the Alps

Temperature

Rising, at midday at 2000 m between -2 °C in the north and +2 °C in the south

Wind

Northwesterly wind, increasing again

- Strong to stormy during the day on the northern Alpine ridge and Main Alpine Ridge
- otherwise moderate to strong at altitude
- Mostly moderate northerly winds on the southern flank of the Alps down into the upper valleys

Outlook to Monday

On Sunday, it will be mostly sunny with denser clouds at times in the Jura, on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. Winds will be light to moderate from westerly directions. On Monday, it will be mostly sunny on the southern flank of the Alps and in Valais. Otherwise, it will be generally very cloudy and some precipitation is possible, especially towards the east. The snowfall level will be around 1500 m. It will be appreciably warmer, especially in the south with +5 °C at midday at 2000 m. The avalanche danger will decrease, especially in western and northern regions with a lot of snow. Isolated naturally triggered avalanches are still possible on Sunday, especially on the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. In southern Valais, northern Ticino and Grisons, the avalanche danger will decrease more slowly. Conditions for touring and off-piste skiing remain critical in many places here.