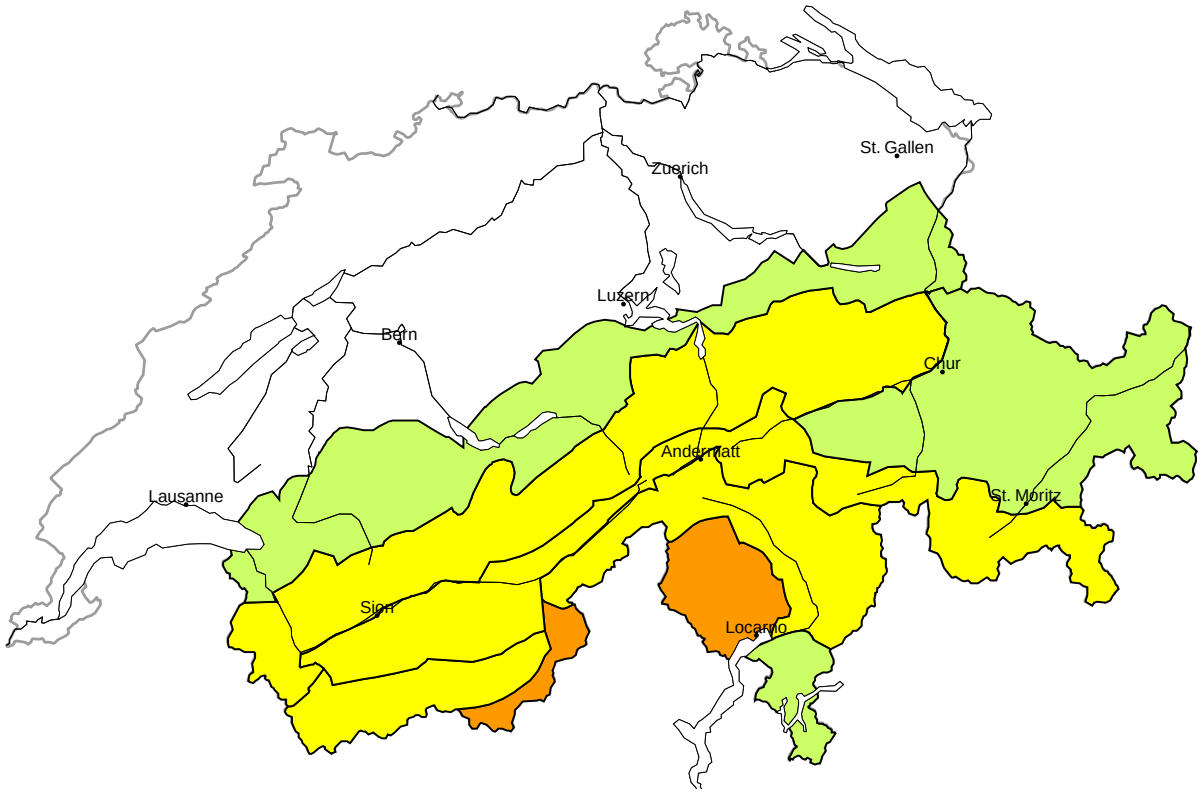
Avalanche bulletin through Wednesday, 17. December 2025

Avalanche danger

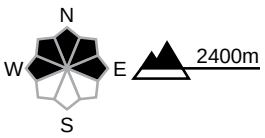
updated on 16.12.2025, 17:00



region A — Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

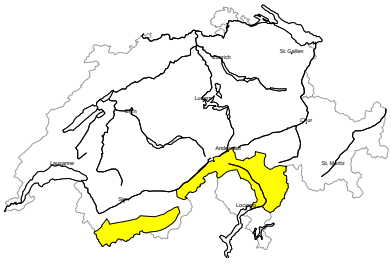
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

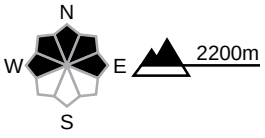
Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong southerly wind, wind slabs formed on Tuesday. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. In many cases avalanches can be triggered in the old snow and reach medium size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation 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 B — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong southerly wind, wind slabs formed on Tuesday at elevated altitudes. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snow and reach medium size. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

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

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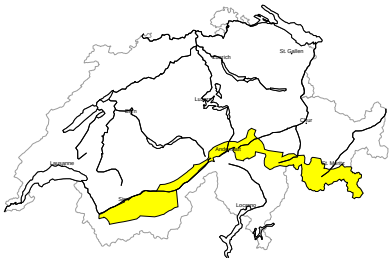
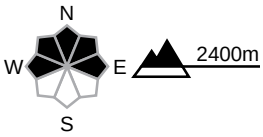
region C — Moderate (2=)



Persistent weak layers

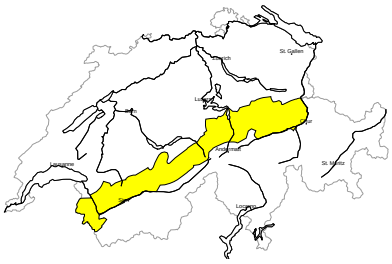
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

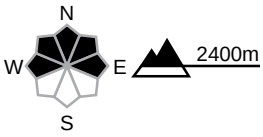
As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed on Tuesday at elevated altitudes. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow by a single winter sport participant. They can reach medium size. Careful route selection is appropriate.

region D — Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

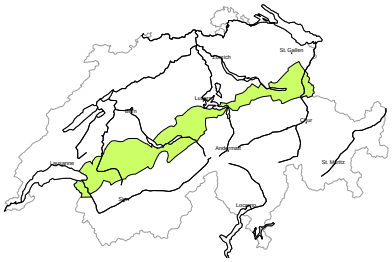
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

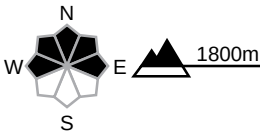
As a consequence of a strong southerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed on Tuesday. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. In regions exposed to the foehn wind and in high Alpine regions these avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region E — Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

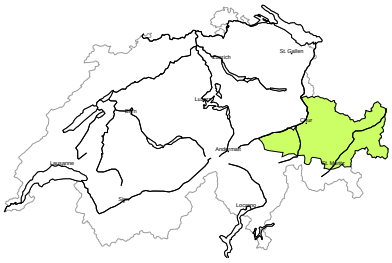
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

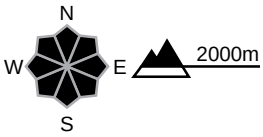
Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly wind, small wind slabs formed at elevated altitudes. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region F — Low (1)



Persistent weak layers

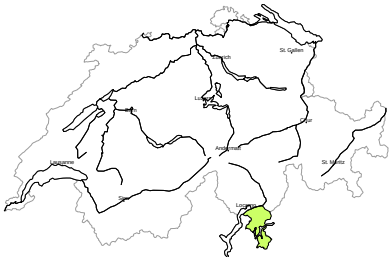
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

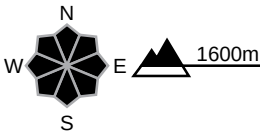
Weak layers in the old snowpack can still be released in very isolated cases in particular on extremely steep shady slopes.
In addition clearly visible wind slabs formed especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These are small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. In high Alpine regions and in the regions exposed to the foehn wind these avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly greater. Mostly avalanches are small. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region G — Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

From a snow sport perspective, insufficient snow is lying. As a consequence of the new snow dry and moist snow slides are possible, but they will be mostly small. This applies in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.12.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

The snow depths at intermediate and high altitudes are generally below average for the time of year. There is particularly little snow on the southern flank of the Alps. Only in parts of Lower Valais is snow depth roughly in line with the long-term average. On south-facing slopes and generally below 2400 m, the snowpack is mostly wet or crusted.
Along the Main Alpine Ridge and south of there, fresh and drifted snow was deposited at high altitudes on a thin but heavily faceted snowpack on Tuesday. Avalanches are particularly likely to be triggered in these regions.
North of the Main Alpine Ridge, there are pronounced weak layers in the snowpack, particularly on northern and eastern slopes above approximately 2400 m, but hardly any avalanches have been triggered there by human activity in recent days. At high altitudes, Tuesday's strong southerly wind has transported some of the old snow, resulting in local snowdrift accumulations.

Weather review for Tuesday

Towards Tuesday morning, precipitation set in on the Main Alpine Ridge and south of there. The snowfall level was at around 1200 m. In other regions, it was mostly cloudy but dry.

Fresh snow
The following amounts had fallen above 1600 m by Tuesday afternoon:
- Main Alpine Ridge from the Grand St Bernard Pass to the Bernina and south of there: 5 to 15 cm, in western Ticino up to 20 cm
- elsewhere dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +3°C in the north and -2°C in the south

Wind
From southerly directions:
- strong in northern regions exposed to the foehn wind and generally at high altitudes
- moderate at high altitudes on the southern flank of the Alps

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Weather forecast to Wednesday

Overnight to Wednesday, some snow will continue to fall on the southern flank of the Alps above 1400 m. During the day, it will be mostly cloudy on the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, in Grisons and in Ticino, but elsewhere quite sunny.

Fresh snow
Between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning, the following amounts are expected above 1600 m:
- Main Alpine Ridge from the Grand St Bernard Pass to the Bernina and south of there: 5 to 15 cm
- elsewhere dry

Overall between Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning above 1600 m:
- Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa to the Nufenen Pass, western Ticino, Sotto Ceneri: 20 to 30 cm
- remaining Main Alpine Ridge of the Valais Alps and Main Alpine Ridge from the Nufenen Pass to the Bernina region, other regions of the central part of the southern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around 0°C.

Wind
Rapidly subsiding southerly, light during the day

Outlook to Friday

On Thursday conditions will be very cloudy on the southern flank of the Alps, with sunny conditions elsewhere. Friday will be quite sunny everywhere. In the west, winds will be occasionally moderate and sometimes strong from the southwest, elsewhere light.
Avalanche risk will decrease slowly in the south but will otherwise remain largely unchanged.