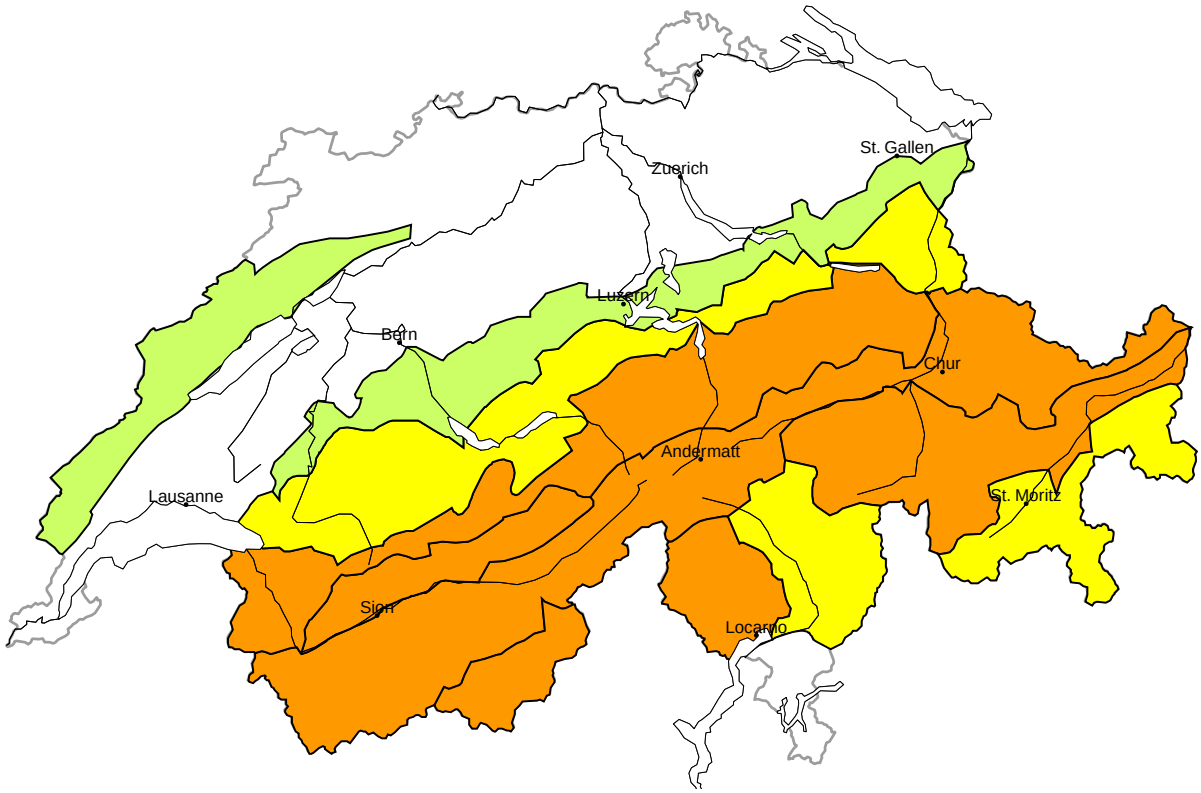
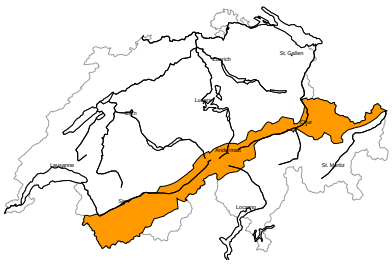
Avalanche danger

updated on 16.1.2026, 17:00

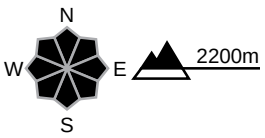


region A — Considerable (3=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of last week are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are prevalent. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.
The southerly wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.

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

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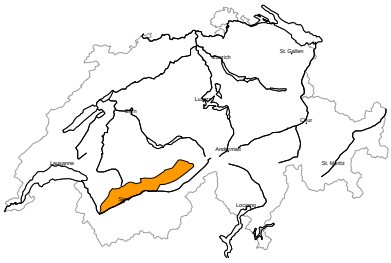
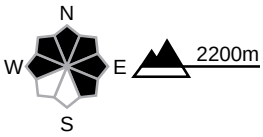
region B — Considerable (3=)



Persistent weak layers

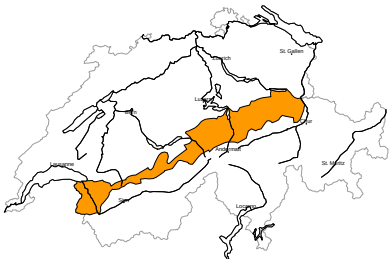
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

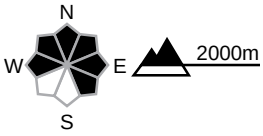
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of last week are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. In the last few days large and, in isolated cases, very large avalanches were released. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches as before. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for caution and restraint.

region C — Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



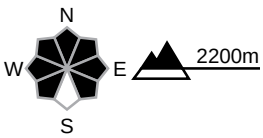
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of last week are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. These can reach large size in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.
The foehn wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.

region D — Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The southerly wind will transport the new snow. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size.
The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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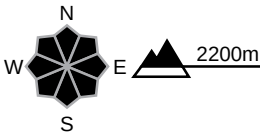
region E — Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

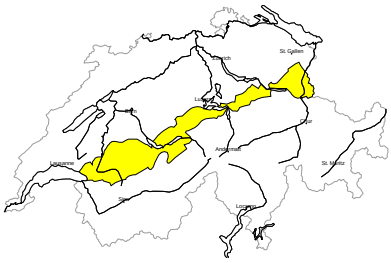
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

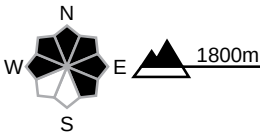
The southerly wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size.
The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Moderate (2+)



Persistent weak layers

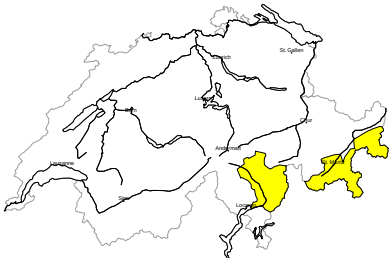
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

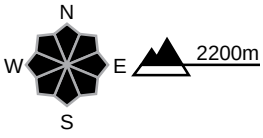
The new snow and wind slabs of last week are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. These can in many cases reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region G — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size in isolated cases.
The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.

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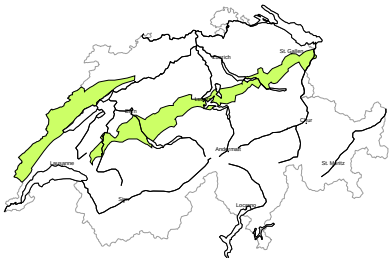
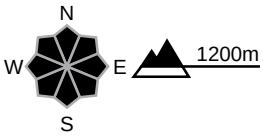
region H

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. In addition individual gliding avalanches are possible. Mostly the avalanches are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.1.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh and drifted snow from the last week is lying in many places on a faceted old snow surface or on surface hoar, especially on wind-protected shady slopes. Avalanches triggered by human activity show that the connection to the old surface of the snowpack is still weak. South of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, the entire snowpack is often faceted and loose. Here, avalanches may penetrate near-ground layers. On the northern flank of the Alps, in Valais and in northern Grisons, avalanches may still become dangerously large. Many whumpfing sounds and remote triggering over larger distances are still being reported from Valais and northern Grisons. The probability of slab avalanches being triggered remains elevated here and the situation requires patience.
In the regions exposed to the foehn wind in the north, snowdrift accumulations that are prone to triggering developed on Friday. They will grow a little more on Saturday.
The snow is wet at low and intermediate altitudes. Isolated gliding avalanches are possible on steep sunny slopes, especially on the northern flank of the Alps.

Weather review for Friday

In the north, it was mostly sunny in the mountains, with patches of cloud in the east. Conditions were very cloudy in the south with a little snowfall above approximately 1200 m.

Fresh snow
Southern Simplon region, Ticino and Moesano: up to 5 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +1 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

Wind
From southerly directions:
- Sometimes strong foehn wind during the night to Friday in the regions exposed to the foehn wind in the north, otherwise mostly moderate in the north.
- Weak to moderate in the south.

Weather forecast to Saturday

In the north, it will be partly sunny in the mountains with patches of cloud. In the south, it will be very cloudy with precipitation, which will fall as snow above approximately 1200 m.

Fresh snow
Until Saturday afternoon, above approximately 1500 m:
- Main Alpine Ridge in Upper Valais on the border with Italy, northern Ticino: 10 to 20 cm
- Rest of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Great St. Bernard Pass to Val Bregaglia: 5 to 10 cm

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

Wind
Southerly winds
- Moderate to strong in the north, strong foehn wind at times in the regions exposed to the foehn wind in the north
- Weak to moderate south of the Main Alpine Ridge

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Outlook to Monday

In the north, it will be mostly sunny in the mountains on both days with high cloud cover. The zero-degree level will be between 2200 and 2400 m. The southerly wind will be moderate on Sunday and strong on Monday.
Conditions will be very cloudy in the south on both days. Some snow will fall on the Main Alpine Ridge and to the south of it. With 15 to 25 cm, on Monday most of the snow will fall on the Main Alpine Ridge in Upper Valais and in Ticino. However, the forecast for Monday is still uncertain. The snowfall level will be between 1000 and 1200 m. The southerly wind will be weak to moderate on Sunday and moderate to strong at high altitudes on Monday.
In the south and on the Main Alpine Ridge in Valais, the avalanche risk will increase on Monday with fresh snow and wind. Otherwise it will not change significantly. Weak layers in the old snowpack and the fresh drift snow are prone to triggering in many areas.