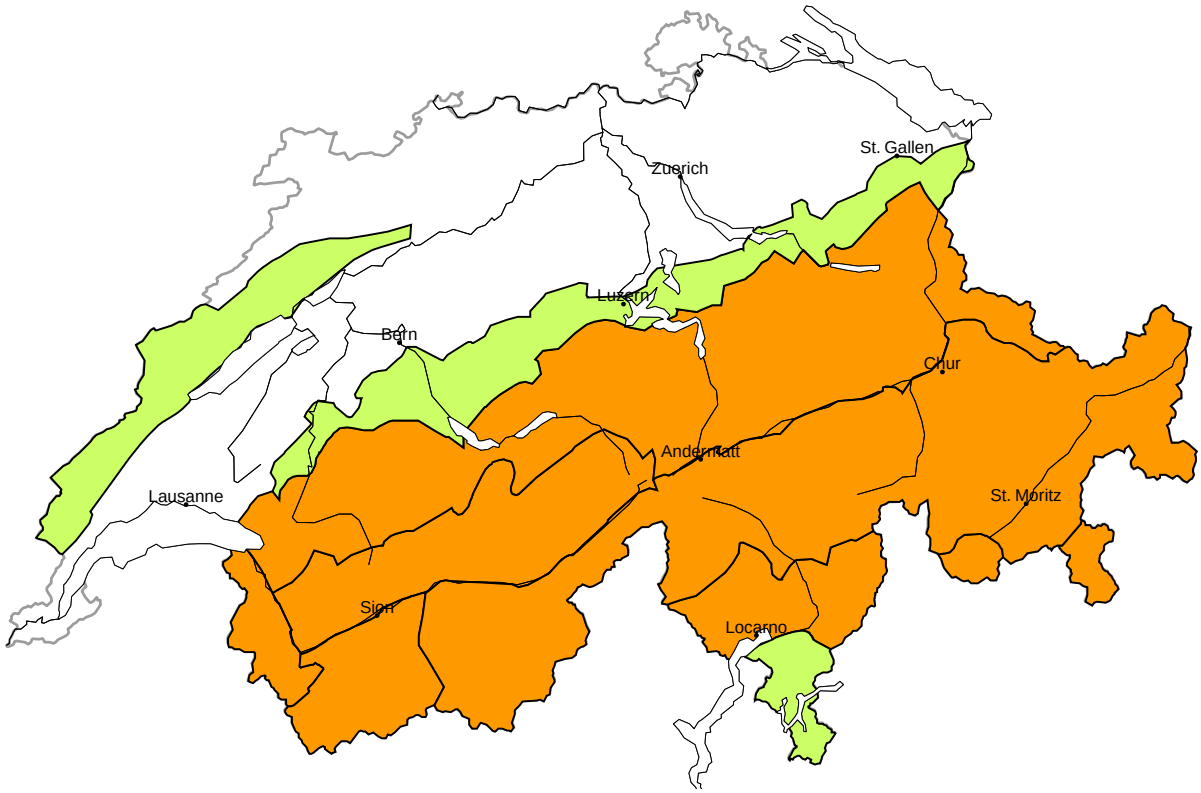
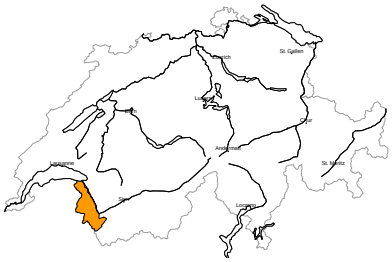
Avalanche danger

updated on 7.1.2025, 17:00



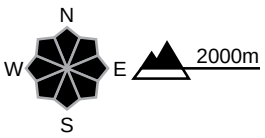
region A

Considerable (3+)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



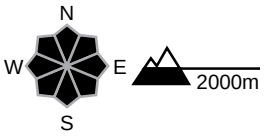
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, extensive wind slabs will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

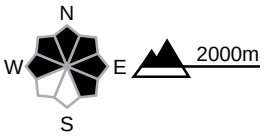
As the snowfall level rises more frequent gliding avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size.

region B

Considerable (3=)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

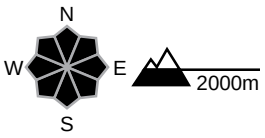


Danger description
As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, wind slabs will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

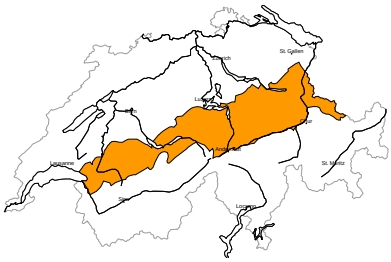
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
As the snowfall level rises more frequent gliding avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size.

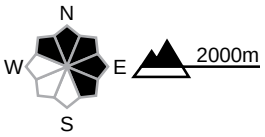
region C

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

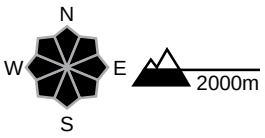


Danger description
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



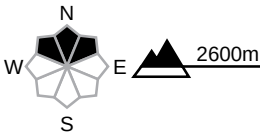
Danger description
As the snowfall level rises more frequent gliding avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size.

region D

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



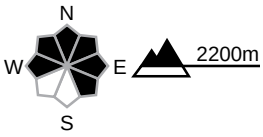
Danger description
Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region E

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

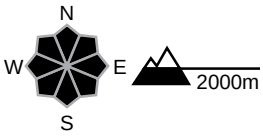


Danger description
Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach large size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
In addition the sometimes new snow-covered wind slabs of the last three days are prone to triggering in some cases still.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

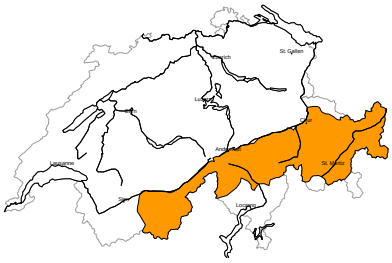
Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



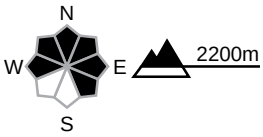
Danger description
As the snowfall level rises more frequent gliding avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size.

region F — Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

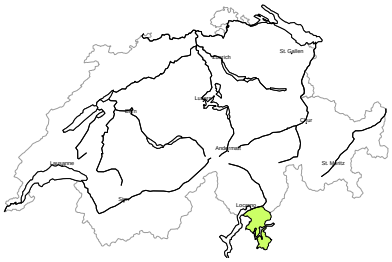
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
In addition the sometimes new snow-covered wind slabs of the last three days are prone to triggering in some cases still.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

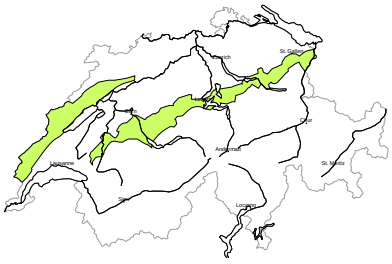
region G — Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

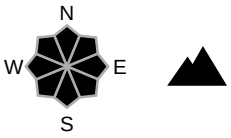
The new snow of the last two days can be released in isolated cases. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region H — Low (1)



Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Individual gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach medium size.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

The structure of the snowpack varies greatly from region to region:

- Along the Main Alpine Ridge in Grisons, in the Upper Engadine and in northern regions of Ticino, new and drift snow that fell during the night into Tuesday was deposited on a thin but often completely transformed snowpack in many places. This thin old snowpack was particularly present in gullies and bowls on western, northern and eastern slopes above 2200 m. Here, avalanches can easily be triggered.
- In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, there are distinct weak layers in the snowpack at high altitude. In these, avalanches can be triggered in places and sometimes tear through to the ground.
- North of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine and in the extreme west of Lower Valais, the snowpack structure is more favourable. Avalanches in weak layers in the old snowpack are only possible in isolated cases.

Weather review for Tuesday, 07 January 2025

There was widespread precipitation during the night, with the most falling in the south and west. The snowfall level dropped from 1600 m to 1000 m in the west and 800 m in the south. During the day it was mostly sunny in Valais and the south and brighter in the west. In the north-east, it remained mostly cloudy until the middle of the day.

Fresh snow
From Monday morning to Tuesday afternoon above 1800 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Bernina Pass and south of it: 20 to 40 cm
- Extreme west of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, rest of Ticino: 15 to 25 cm
- The rest of Lower Valais, the rest of the northern flank of the Alps, the rest of Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- Less elsewhere.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -5 °C

Wind
Initially still strong from the south, then moderate to strong from the west in the Jura, on the northern flank of the Alps and at higher altitudes, otherwise mostly light.

Weather forecast to Wednesday, 08 January 2025

Precipitation will set in during the night in the west and north and will continue until midday on Wednesday. The snowfall level will increase from 1000 metres to between 1800 and 2000 metres. In Grisons and the south, there will be little precipitation or it will remain dry.

Fresh snow
Between Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon above 2200 m:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, Vaud Alps: 20 to 40 cm
- The rest of the northern flank of the Alps, the rest of Valais except the Visp valleys, northern Prättigau: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: less, or it will remain dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in the north and 0 °C in the south.

Wind
Strong winds on the northern flank of the Alps and generally at high altitudes, partly stormy from the west.

Avalanche bulletin through Wednesday, 8. January 2025

Outlook

Apart from sunny spells in Grisons on Thursday and in the south on Friday, it will be mostly cloudy on both days. Precipitation will be more prevalent. The snowfall level will fluctuate considerably. On Thursday it will be between 1400 and 1800 metres, on Friday initially at low altitude before rapidly rising from the west to over 2000 metres. Above 2200 m, 20 to 40 cm of snow is expected on the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais. Up to 60 cm of snow may fall along the border with France. In the other regions, 10 to 20 cm of snow is possible at high altitude. The wind will be mostly strong and blowing from the west.
In the regions exposed to heavier precipitation in the west, the avalanche danger will increase; in the extreme west of Lower Valais, danger level 4 (high) may be reached on Friday. Otherwise the avalanche danger will hardly change. In the north and west, gliding avalanches are still possible below 2000 metres.