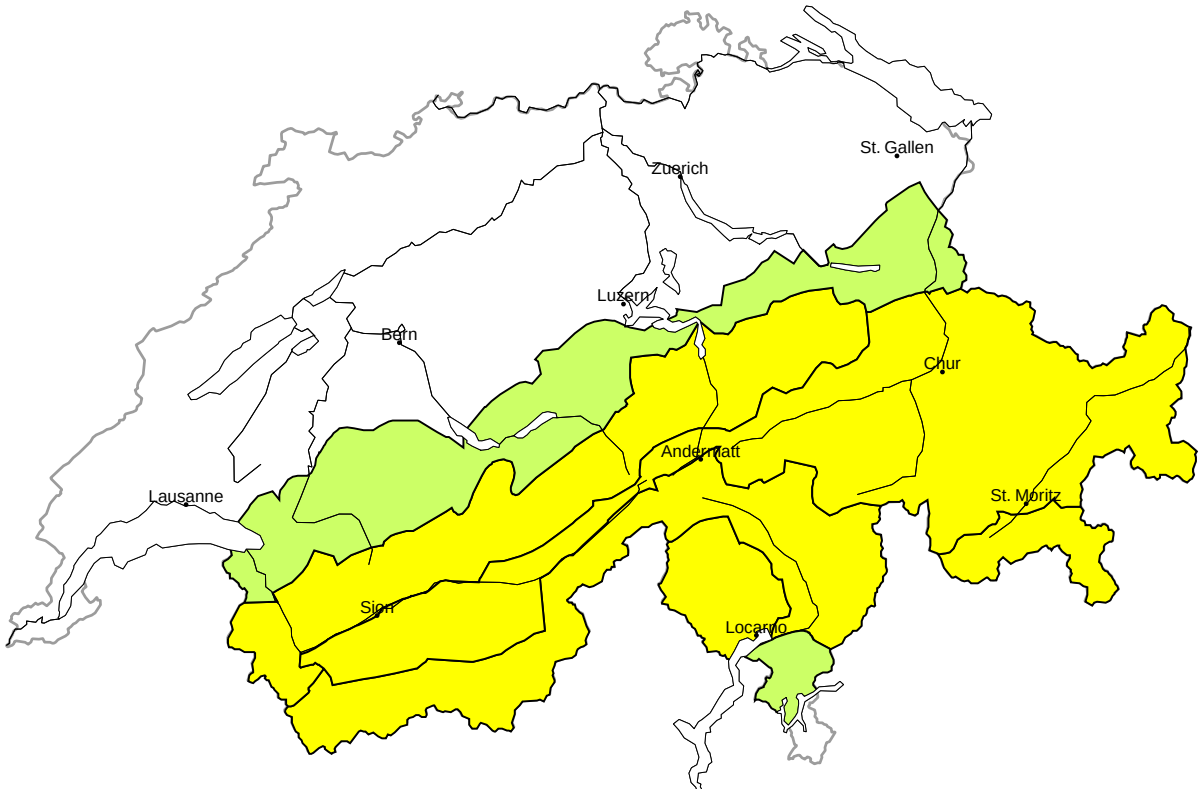
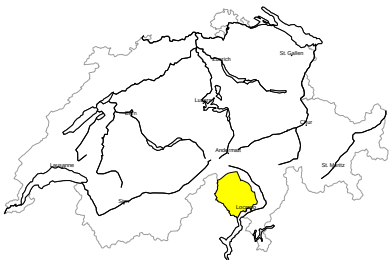
Avalanche danger

updated on 18.12.2025, 17:00

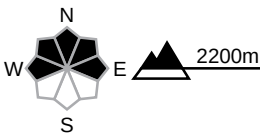


region A — Moderate (2+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The fresh snow of the last three days and the mostly small wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack at elevated altitudes. 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.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the field, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

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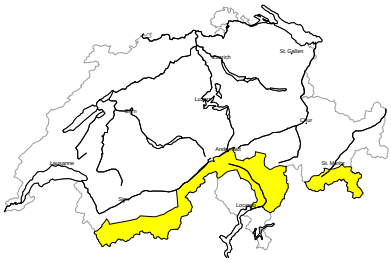
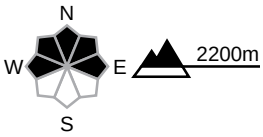
region B — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

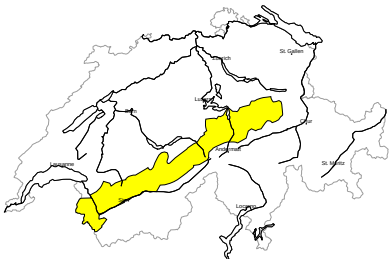
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

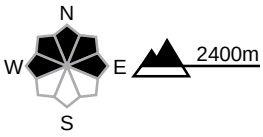
Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong southerly wind, wind slabs formed in the last few days at elevated altitudes. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snow and reach medium size.
Careful route selection is advisable.

region C — Moderate (2-)



No distinct avalanche problem

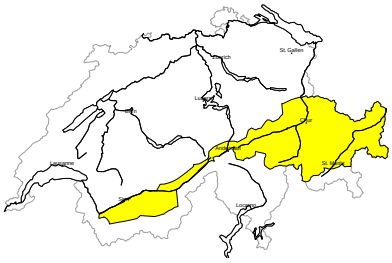
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

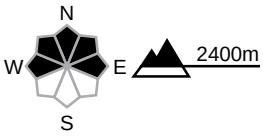
Winter sport participants can release avalanches in isolated cases. The mostly small wind slabs of the last few days are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are a little more prevalent.
Careful route selection is recommended.

region D — Moderate (2-)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed in the last few days 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. They can reach medium size.
Careful route selection is recommended.

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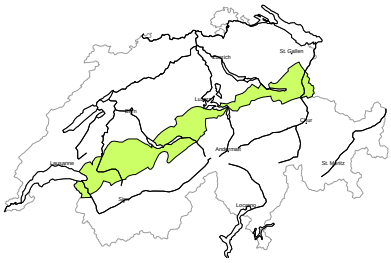
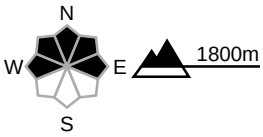
region E

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations

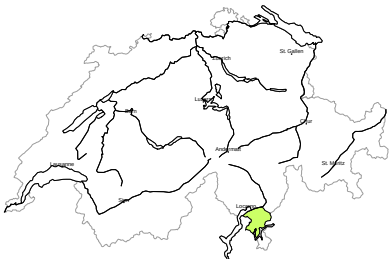


Danger description

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 in the last few days at elevated altitudes. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

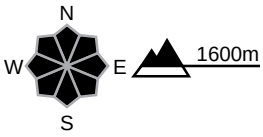
region F

Low (1)



Wet snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

From a snow sport perspective, insufficient snow is lying. On very steep slopes moist snow slides are possible, but they will be mostly small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.12.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

In westernmost and northern Lower Valais, there is somewhat more snow at high altitudes than is usual at this time of year. Elsewhere, snow depths are below average and in the south they are well below average. On south-facing slopes and generally below 2400 m, the snowpack is mostly wet or crusted.
On the Main Alpine Ridge and to the south of there, the last few days' fresh and drifted snow is lying at high altitudes on a thin but weak old snowpack of faceted crystals.
North of the Main Alpine Ridge, there was little transportable snow so only small snowdrift accumulations have formed. However, where these are lying on surface hoar, they are still prone to triggering. In addition, in the inneralpine regions of Valais and throughout Grisons, there are some pronounced weak layers deeper in the old snowpack, especially on northern and eastern slopes above approximately 2400 m. However, hardly any avalanches have been triggered in these layers for some days.

Weather review for Thursday

Conditions were very cloudy in the south with a little snowfall above approximately 1600 m while they were sunny and mild in the inneralpine regions and in the north.

Fresh snow
Since Wednesday afternoon, 5 cm, and locally up to 10 cm, of snow have fallen on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Nufenen Pass to Bernina and south of there.
This means that, above approximately 2000 m, total snowfall since Tuesday has been:

- Valle Maggia: 30 cm
- rest of Ticino, Moesano, Bernina region: 15 to 20 cm
- rest of the Main Alpine Ridge: 5 to 15 cm
- elsewhere mainly dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +3°C in the north and -1°C in the south

Wind

- Moderate from southerly directions
- In the afternoon, a foehn wind set in in the north

Weather forecast to Friday

Conditions will be sunny and clouds will gather in the west in the afternoon.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +3°C in the north and -1°C in the south

Wind

- Moderate southerly to southwesterly winds during the night in the north and at high altitudes, sometimes rising to strong in those regions exposed to the foehn wind
- Initially light winds during the day with moderate southwesterly winds in the afternoon in the west

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Outlook to Sunday

On Saturday, there will be sunny intervals in the west and conditions will even be mainly sunny in the east. Temperatures will remain mild and winds will be light. A foehn wind will rise in the north on Sunday. In those northern and easternmost regions exposed to the foehn wind, conditions will be very sunny and mild, while they will be mainly cloudy, but substantially dry, elsewhere.
Avalanche risk will decrease, but only slowly, in Valais, Grisons and the south due to the weak snowpack structure.