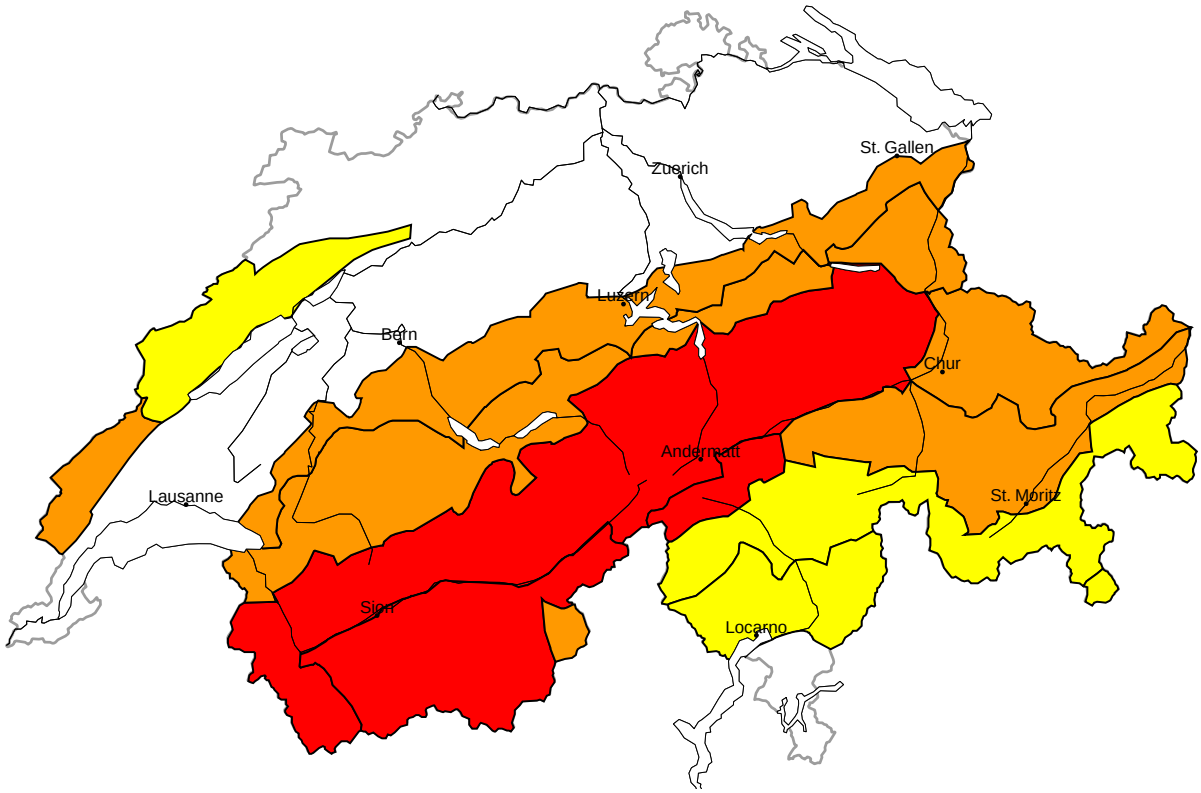
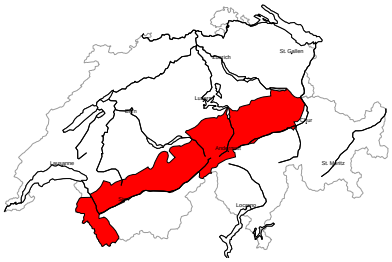
Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 23. December 2024

Avalanche danger

updated on 22.12.2024, 17:00

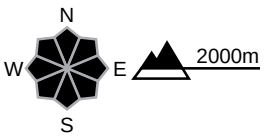


region A — High (4=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



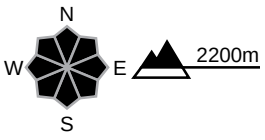
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are to be expected. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. Very large natural avalanches, capable of reaching the valleys, must be expected with increasing likelihood. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in some cases. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical.

region B — 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 be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. Natural avalanches are to be expected. The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical.

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

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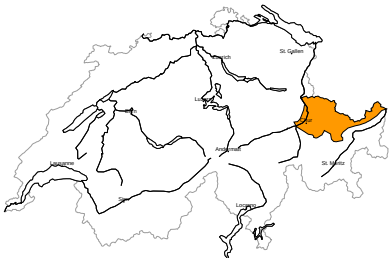
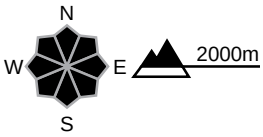
region C — Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



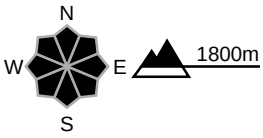
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and strong wind the already large wind slabs will increase in size additionally. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Additionally avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. An increasing number of natural avalanches are possible. The avalanche danger will increase from midday.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience and restraint.

region D — Considerable (3+)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



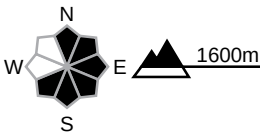
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size.
As a consequence of the heavy snowfall more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience and restraint.

region E — Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The sometimes large wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by people and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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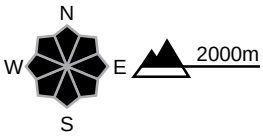
region F — Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

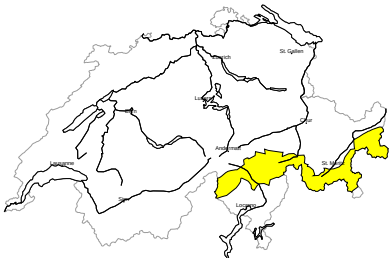
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

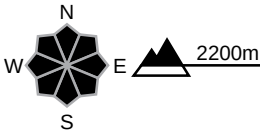
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. As a consequence of the snowfall the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. 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 G — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

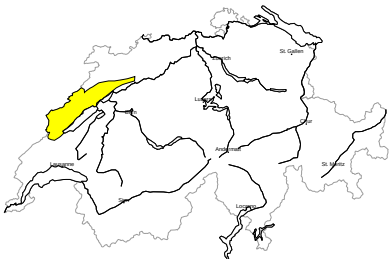
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

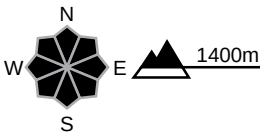
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. Small to medium-sized avalanches are possible. As a consequence of the snowfall the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase.
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 careful route selection.

region H — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force westerly wind, wind slabs will form. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can be released by people, but they will be small in most cases. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

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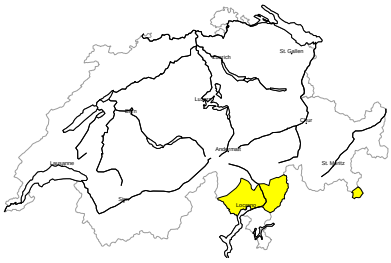
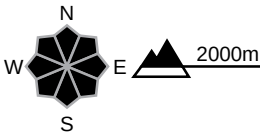
region I

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The more recent wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They are mostly small but can be released easily. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls.
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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.12.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

The large amount of fresh snow from the current period of precipitation is falling in many places on an unfavourable old snowpack. Particularly on western, northern and eastern slopes, there are widespread pronounced weak layers in the snowpack where avalanches may start. In the Lower Valais and on the northern Alpine ridge, these weak layers are already somewhat more thickly covered than in other regions, but are still susceptible to triggering. On the southern flank of the Alps, in the Engadine and in central Grisons, the snowpack is mainly still thin, but consequently often completely faceted.

Weather review for Sunday, 22 December 2024

Cloud cover was heavy and there was precipitation, except in the far south.

Fresh snow
Overnight to Sunday, the snowfall level rose to around 1800 m in the north and 1000 m in the south. Snowfall from the onset of precipitation on Saturday evening until Sunday afternoon:
- northern flank of the Alps, western Lower Valais, central Upper Valais, Goms, Gotthard region: 20 to 40 cm
- Jura peaks, other parts of Valais, northern Ticino and northern Grisons, Lower Engadine:10 to 20 cm
- further south: less precipitation or dry

Temperature
Temperatures fell to between -2 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south at midday at 2000 m.

Wind
- mostly strong from the west overnight to Sunday
- moderate to strong and gradually becoming northwesterly over the course of the day

Weather forecast to Monday, 23 December 2024

It will be very cloudy in the north. Snowfall will continue to be persistent and mostly heavy. Skies will clear on the southern flank of the Alps overnight to Monday. It will be mainly sunny there during the day.

Fresh snow
The snowfall level will be at low altitude. New snowfall to Monday evening:
- Lower Valais and northern Alpine ridge from the Lower Valais to the Glarus Alps: 40 to 60 cm
- Jura, other parts of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, the Gotthard region and northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm
- central Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- further south less than 10 cm or dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south.

Wind
Strong to stormy northwesterly winds, on the southern flank of the Alps strong northerly winds down into the valleys

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Outlook

Tuesday

It will be mostly sunny on the southern flank of the Alps. In the west, snow will stop falling overnight to Tuesday, then skies will clear and conditions will become quite sunny. In the east, snow will stop falling in the afternoon and there will be bright intervals in inneralpine regions. A moderate to strong northerly wind will continue to blow at high altitudes, on the southern flank of the Alps as a strong foehn wind from the north down into the valleys. It will remain cold. Avalanche danger will decrease slowly, but will in many places remain critical.

Wednesday

In the mountains it will be quite sunny and get appreciably warmer with a zero-degree level around 2000 m. The wind will ease and be mostly light to moderate from the northeast. Avalanche danger will continue to decrease slowly.