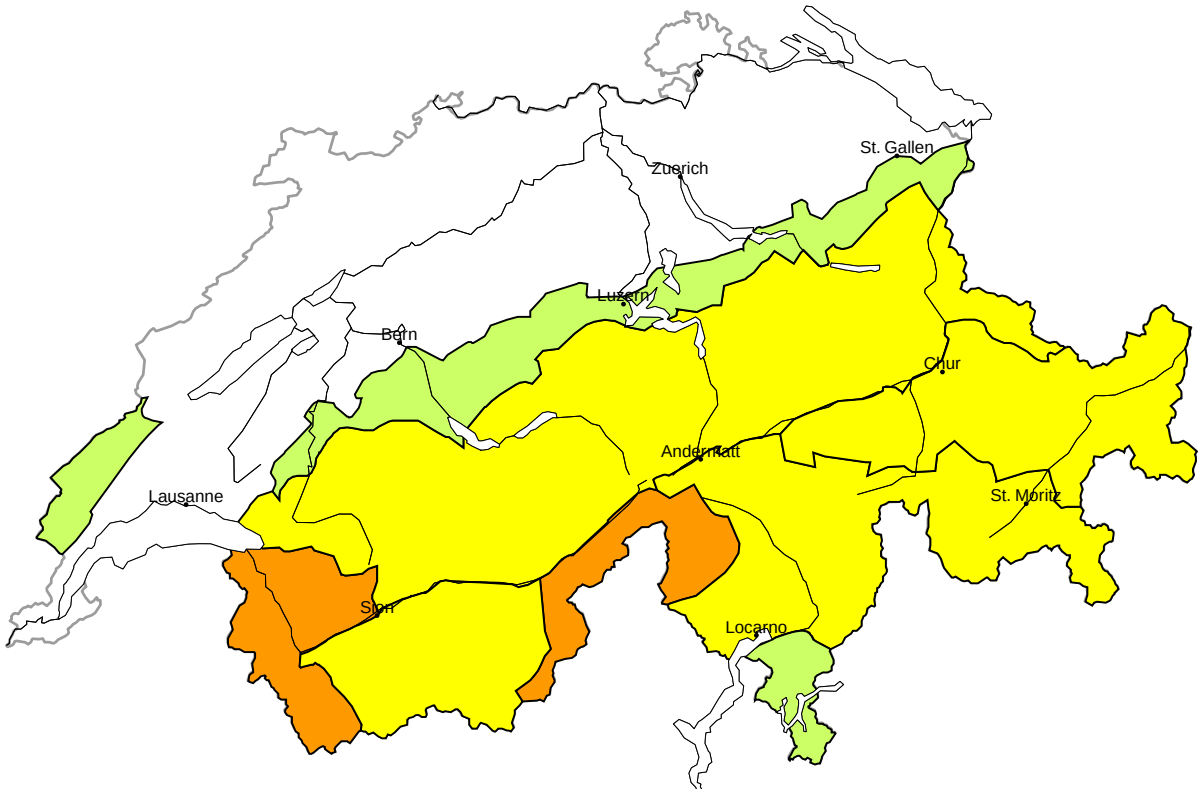
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 23. January 2025

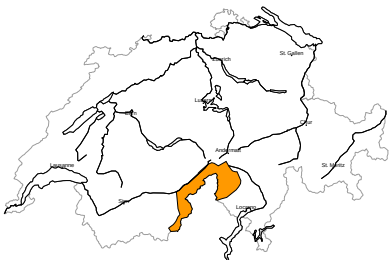
Avalanche danger

updated on 23.1.2025, 08:00



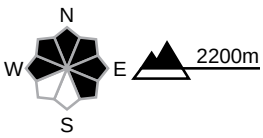
region A

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

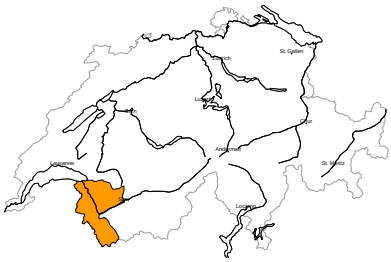


Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on west to north to east facing aspects. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

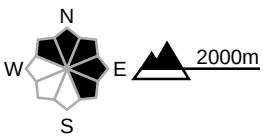
region B

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind, wind slabs will form. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

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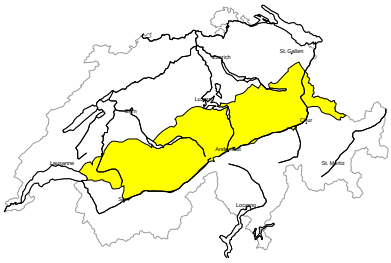
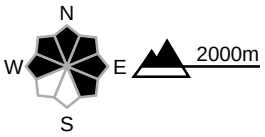
region C

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

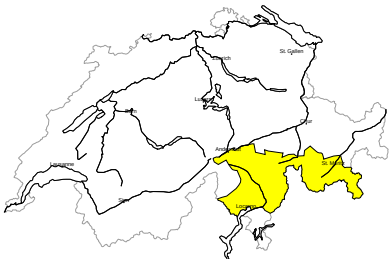


Danger description

Some fresh snow and the mostly small wind slabs that are forming adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls are in some cases prone to triggering.
Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases.
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

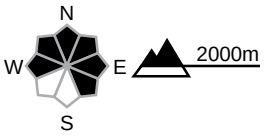
region D

Moderate (2=)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

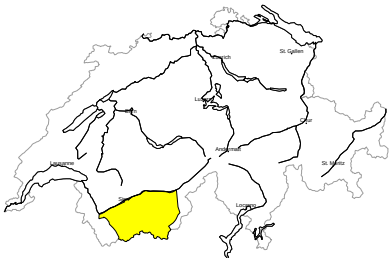


Danger description

Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls. In addition mostly small wind slabs will form especially adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas as well as in the high Alpine regions.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

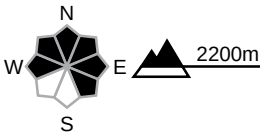
region E

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

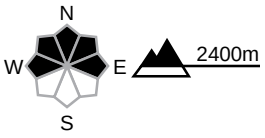
Some fresh snow and the resulting mostly small wind slabs will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack also. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region F

Moderate (2-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases. In addition small wind slabs will form adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas and in the high Alpine regions as the day progresses.
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.

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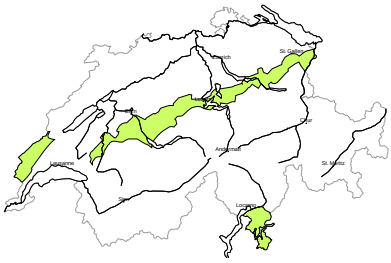
region G

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

With some snow and moderate to strong westerly winds, easily triggered snowdrift accumulations will develop, especially in the west and on the northern flank of the Alps.
The snowpack structure varies from region to region:

- north of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine and in the extreme west of Lower Valais, the snowpack is strongly shaped by the wind in many places. Only on shady slopes protected from the wind is there still loose, faceted snow on the surface, sometimes with surface hoar. The middle part of the snowpack is also often well consolidated and therefore there is little expectation that avalanches will be triggered deep in the old snowpack.
- South of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, the near-surface layers of the snowpack are shaped by the wind, especially in the vicinity of ridgelines and passes. Particularly in areas with little snow in the south and east, the entire snowpack has become faceted in places. Isolated avalanches may be triggered in weak layers.

Weather review for Wednesday

It was mostly cloudy. Some precipitation fell at times in the west. The snowfall level has been around 1500 m.

Fresh snow
Between Wednesday morning and Wednesday afternoon above 1800 m:

- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Lower Valais: up to 5 cm
- Elsewhere: mostly dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south.

Wind

- Mostly light on the southern flank of the Alps
- Otherwise moderate, occasionally strong from the southeast to southwest

Weather forecast to Thursday

During the night, there will be widespread precipitation in the north and west, which will continue into the afternoon. It will remain dry in the inneralpine regions of Grisons. The snowfall level will drop from 1800 m in the west and 1500 m in the east to 1200 m. In the south, some snow will initially fall above 1200 m, and it will be sunny at times during the day.

Fresh snow
Between Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above 2000 m:

- Vaud Alps, extreme west of Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm
- Remaining western part of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, other regions of Lower Valais, Val Bregaglia, Bernina: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere less or dry

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

Wind
Turning from southwest to west:

- moderate to strong on the northern flank of the Alps and in the west, strong at high altitudes
- Otherwise mostly moderate

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Outlook

In the north it will be partly sunny on Friday. In the south it will be cloudy but dry on Saturday. Otherwise it will be quite sunny and mild in the mountains. There will be moderate to strong southwesterly winds, with a moderate foehn wind blowing in the north.
There will be hardly any change in avalanche danger.