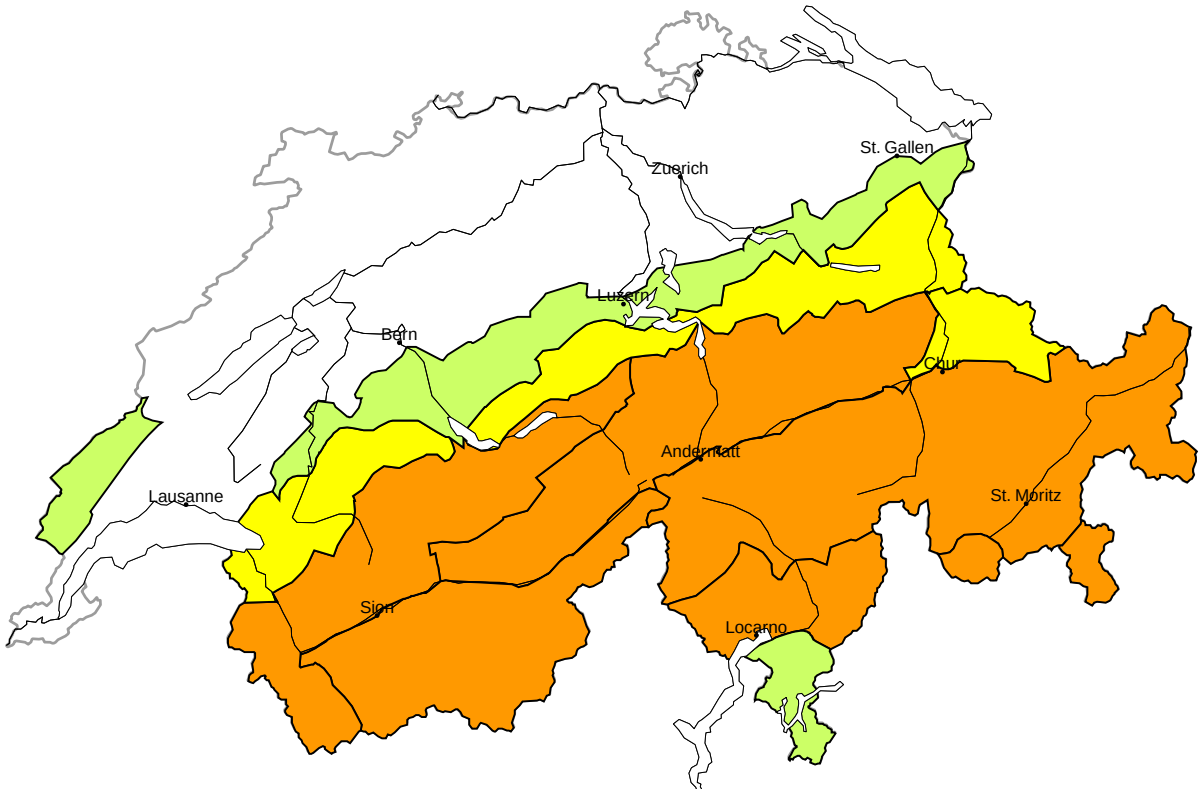
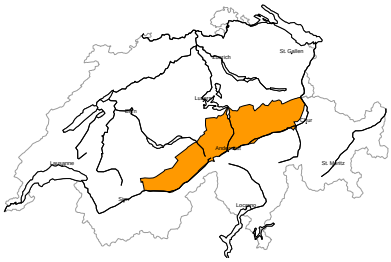
Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 11. January 2025

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.1.2025, 08:00

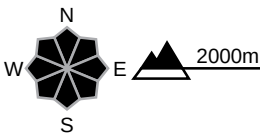


region A — Considerable (3=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



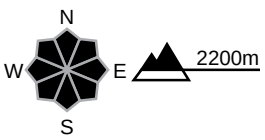
Danger description

The sometimes new snow-covered wind slabs are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region B — Considerable (3=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The more recent wind slabs are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones.
Additionally in some places avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach large size in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

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

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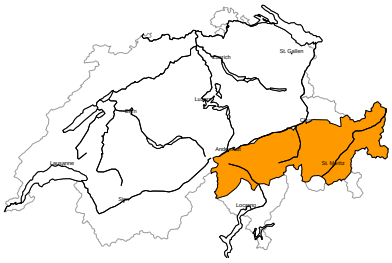
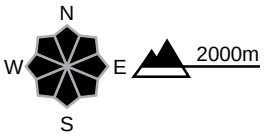
region C

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

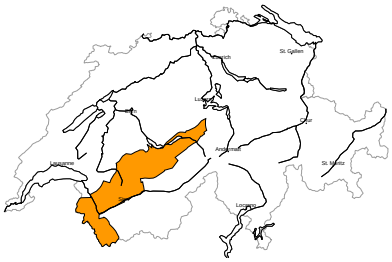


Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow in places that are protected from the wind.
In addition the fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

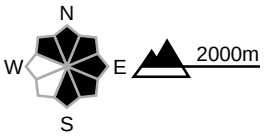
region D

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

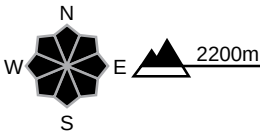
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region E

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Additionally in some places avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2600 m.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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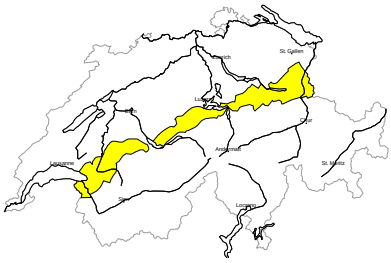
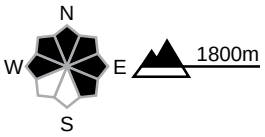
region F

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

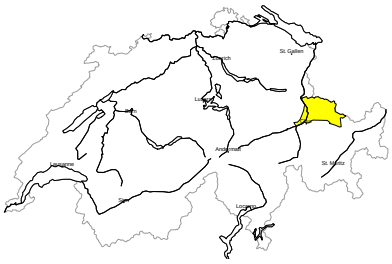


Danger description

The sometimes new snow-covered wind slabs are prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can in some places be released by people, but they will be small in most cases. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

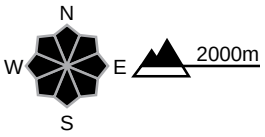
region G

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

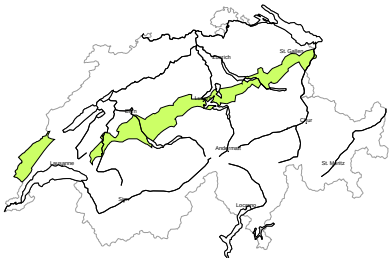


Danger description

The sometimes new snow-covered wind slabs are prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region H

Low (1)

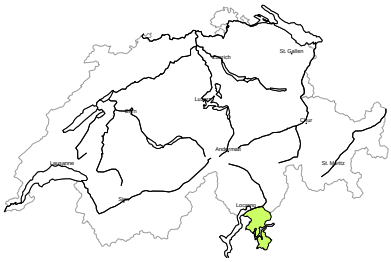


Wind slab

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate westerly wind, wind slabs formed during the night in some localities. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

region I

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found on extremely steep slopes above approximately 1600 m. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh snow and very windy conditions in recent days have resulted in widespread snowdrift accumulations prone to triggering.
The structure of the old snowpack varies greatly from region to region:

- south of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, there are pronounced weak layers in the snowpack at high altitude where avalanches can be triggered in places, sometimes reaching down to the ground.
- these weak layers are also present on the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, as well as in Val Bregaglia and Val Poschiavo, but are very thin and so in the terrain roughness range. Old snow in these southerly regions therefore tends to be unproblematic, except on north-facing slopes above approximately 2600 m,.
- north of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine and in the extreme west of Lower Valais, snowpack structure is more favourable. Avalanches starting in weak layers in old snow are only possible in isolated cases. The snowpack is very strongly affected by the wind.

Weather review for Friday, 10 January 2025

Conditions were mostly overcast and there was snowfall down to low altitudes in the west and north. Only in the far south were there isolated brighter intervals.

Fresh snow
From Thursday to Friday afternoon:

- Northern Alpine ridge from Les Diablerets to Lake Walen, Valais, northern Ticino: 15 to 25 cm
- elsewhere: widespread 5 to 15 cm, less in the far south

Total snowfall over the last 4 days was thus:

- extreme west of Lower Valais: 50 to 70 cm
- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Valais, northern and central Ticino as well as the Upper Engadine, Moesano, Val Bregaglia and Val Poschiavo: 30 to 50 cm
- otherwise widespread 15 to 30 cm, less in the Jura

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the west and -10 °C in the east.

Wind
Strong westerly to northwesterly wind overnight, easing during the day

Weather forecast to Saturday, 11 January 2025

Snowfall will continue until midday in the north. The snowfall level will temporarily rise to 1600 m in the west and then fall again to around 1000 m. Conditions will be mostly sunny in Ticino and Grisons.

Fresh snow
From Friday afternoon to Saturday lunchtime:

- northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Oberland to the Glarus Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- otherwise widespread 5 to 10 cm, mostly dry in the southeast

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the southwest and -9 °C in the northeast.

Wind
Northwesterly wind, still sometimes strong at high altitudes overnight, mainly moderate during the day

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Outlook

Conditions will be predominantly sunny. There will be a moderate to strong northeasterly wind at high altitudes, with a Bise wind rising in the north. It will be cold on Sunday and appreciably milder on Monday. Avalanche danger will decrease slowly. In the north, drifted snow will be the main problem, while old snow will continue to merit attention elsewhere. Isolated gliding avalanches are possible, especially in the west and north.