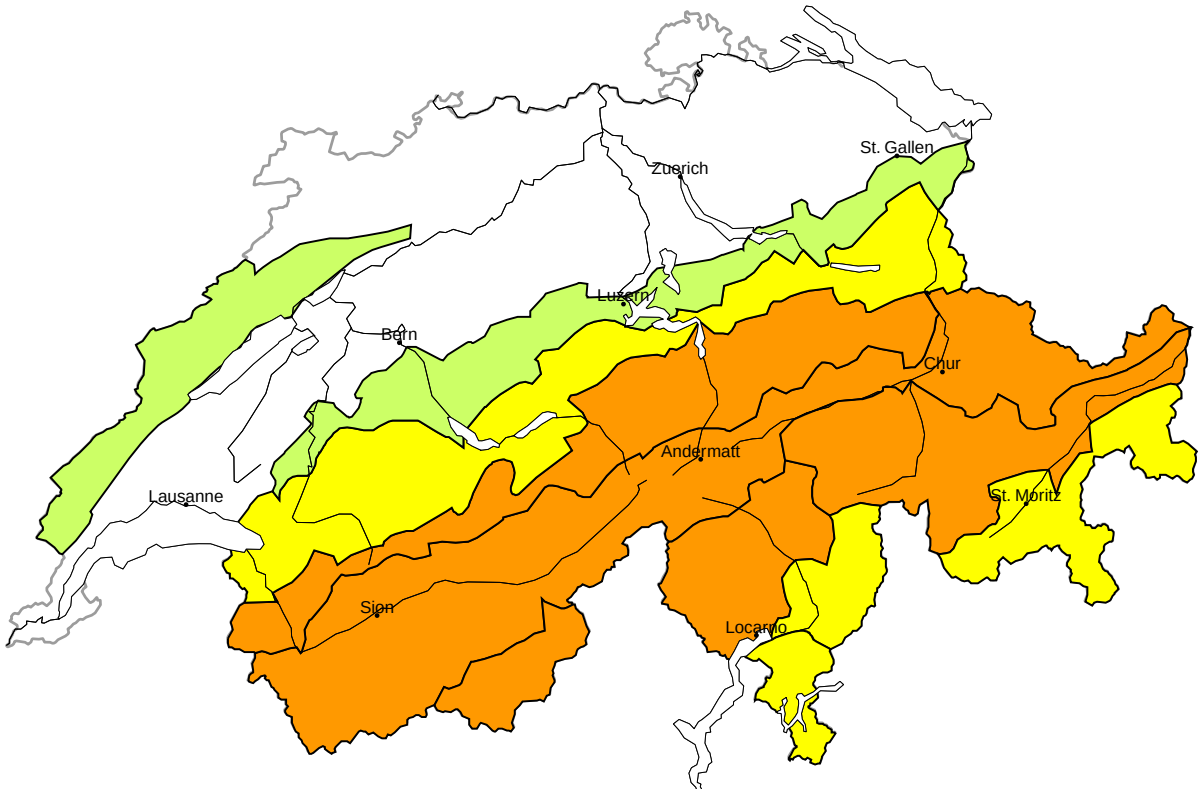
Avalanche bulletin through Sunday, 18. January 2026

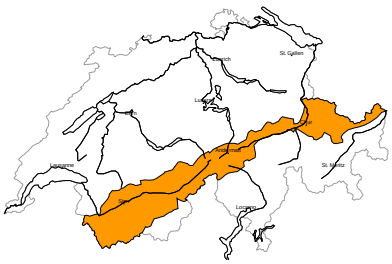
Avalanche danger

updated on 17.1.2026, 17:00



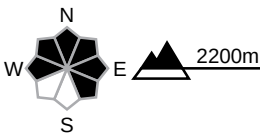
region A

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are prevalent. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.
As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last few days in some localities. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

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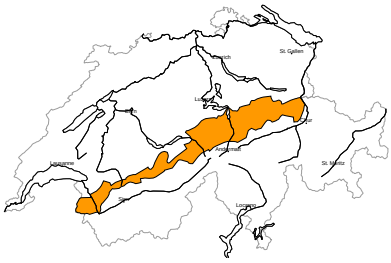
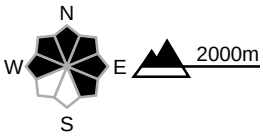
region B

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

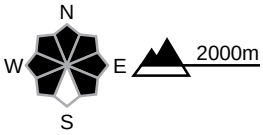
Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach large size in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.
The foehn wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.

region C

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

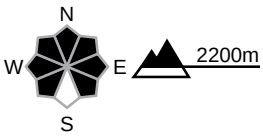
The southerly wind has transported the new snow. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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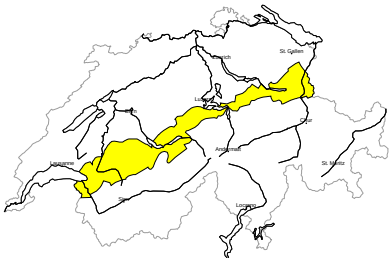
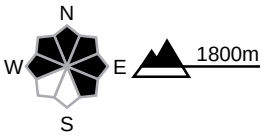
region E

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

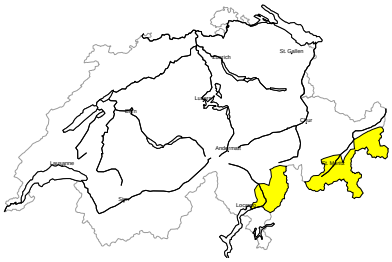


Danger description

As a consequence of foehn wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in some localities. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.
Avalanches can in some places be released in the old snowpack by a single winter sport participant.
Avalanches can reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

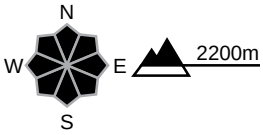
region F

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

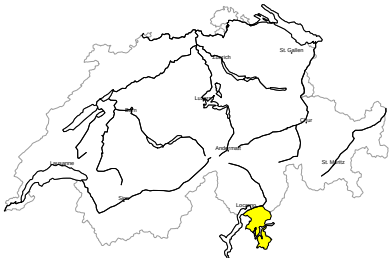


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size in isolated cases.
The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.

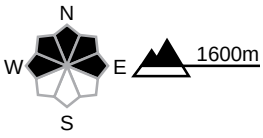
region G

Moderate (2-)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are bonding poorly with the old snowpack. Single persons can release avalanches in some places. Mostly these are small. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

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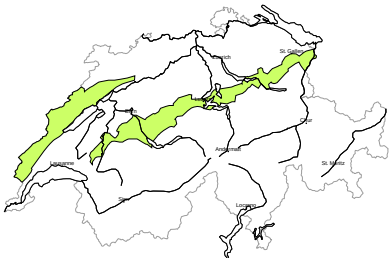
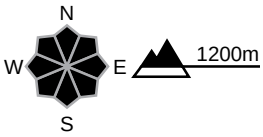
region H

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. In addition individual gliding avalanches are possible. Mostly the avalanches are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.1.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh and drifted snow from the previous week is lying in many places on a faceted old snow surface or on surface hoar, especially on wind-protected shady slopes. Many avalanches triggered by human activity, including those from the end of this week, show that the connection to the old surface of the snowpack is still weak. South of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, the entire snowpack is often faceted and loose. Here, avalanches may penetrate near-ground layers. On the northern flank of the Alps, in Valais and in northern Grisons, avalanches may still become dangerously large. Whumpfing sounds and remote triggering over larger distances have continued to be reported from Valais and northern Grisons in recent days. The probability of slab avalanches being triggered will decrease only slowly. The situation requires patience and caution.
With strong southerly winds at times, snowdrift accumulations that are prone to triggering have also formed in recent days. The snow is wet at low and intermediate altitudes. Isolated gliding avalanches are possible on steep sunny slopes, especially on the northern flank of the Alps.

Weather review for Saturday

It was mostly cloudy in the north and partly sunny in central Valais and the east. It was very cloudy in the south with precipitation at times. The snowfall level was around 1300 m.

Fresh snow
From Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon, above approximately 1500 m:
- Western Ticino, southern Simplon region: 10 to 25 cm
- Rest of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Great St. Bernard Pass to Val Bregaglia and south of there: 5 to 15 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

Wind
From south-east to south
- Moderate to strong in the north, strong foehn wind at times in the regions exposed to the foehn wind in the north
- Sometimes moderate to strong south of the Main Alpine Ridge during the night to Saturday, weak to moderate during the day

Weather forecast to Sunday

In the north, it will be mostly sunny in the mountains with high cloud cover and a continuing foehn wind. It will be very cloudy in the south and a few centimetres of snow will fall above approximately 1300 m.

Fresh snow
Western part of the Main Alpine Ridge on the border with Italy, southern flank of the Alps: up to 5 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around +3 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

Wind
From south to southwest
- Moderate to strong in the north, strong foehn wind in the regions exposed to the foehn wind in the north
- Weak to moderate south of the Main Alpine Ridge

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Outlook to Tuesday

In the north, it will be mostly sunny in the mountains on both days with high cloud cover. The zero-degree level will be between 2000 and 2200 m. The southerly wind will be moderate. On Monday, it will still be strong at times in the regions exposed to the foehn wind in the north. The foehn wind will ease somewhat on Tuesday.
It will be very cloudy in the south on Monday. On the Main Alpine Ridge and south of it, 5 to 10 cm of snow is expected to fall above approximately 1500 m. On Tuesday, it will be increasingly sunny in the south. There will be a weak to moderate southerly wind.
The avalanche risk will not change significantly in the south. It will decrease in the north, but only slowly in the inneralpine regions. Weak layers in the old snowpack will remain prone to triggering.