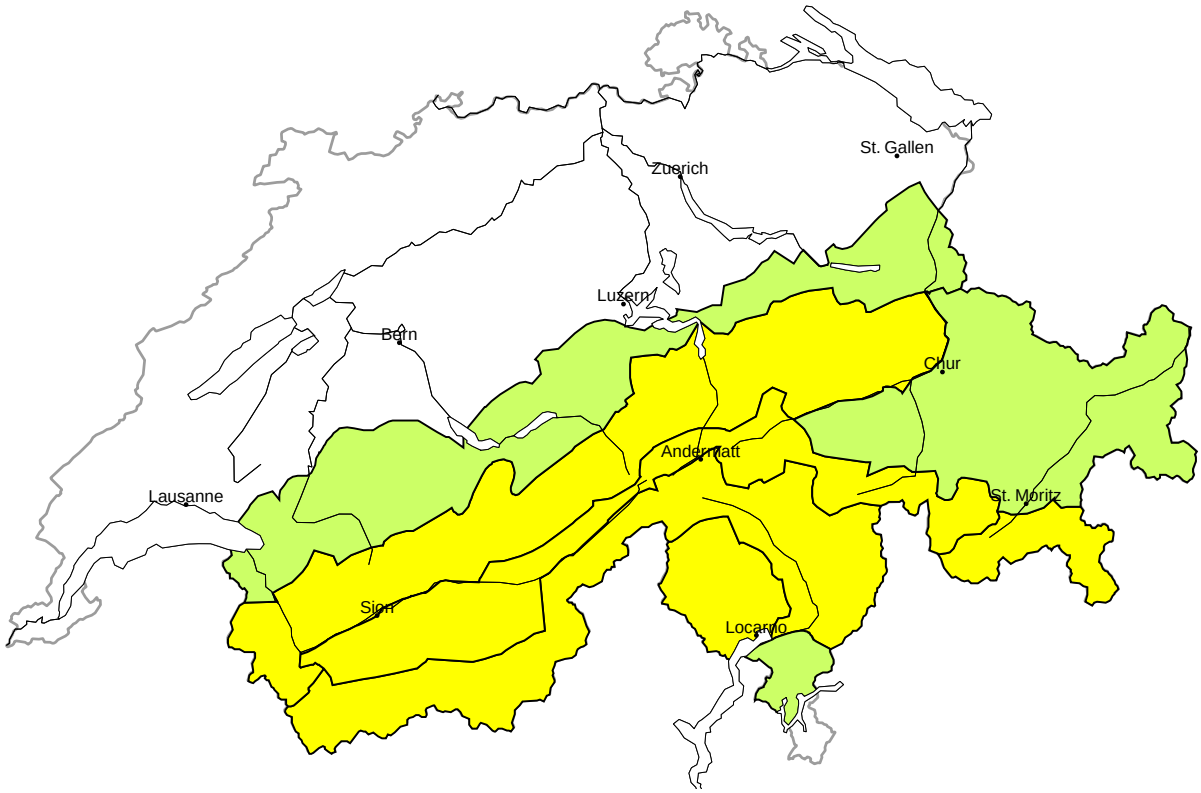
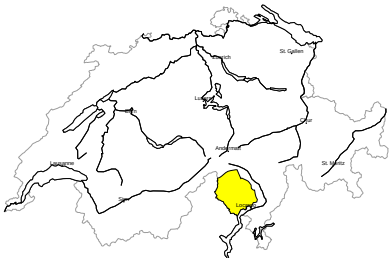
Avalanche bulletin through Thursday, 18. December 2025

Avalanche danger

updated on 17.12.2025, 17:00

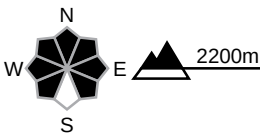


region A — Moderate (2+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

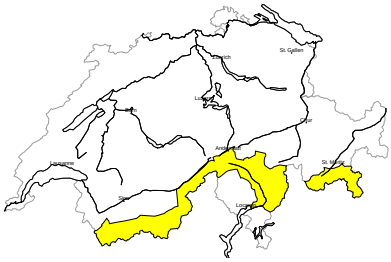
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

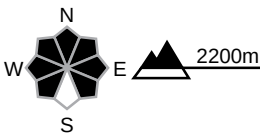
Thus far only a little snow is lying. The fresh snow of the last two days and the mostly small wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snow and reach medium size. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

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 on Tuesday 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.

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

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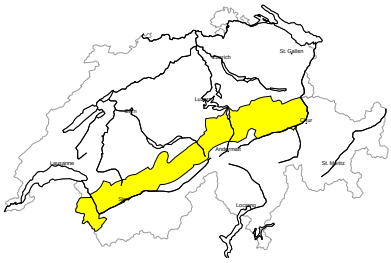
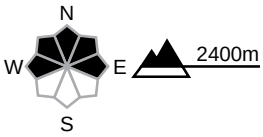
region C — Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

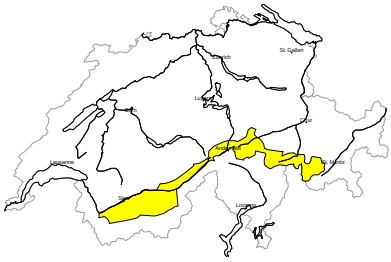
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

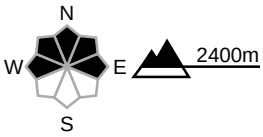
As a consequence of a strong southerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed on Tuesday. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving 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

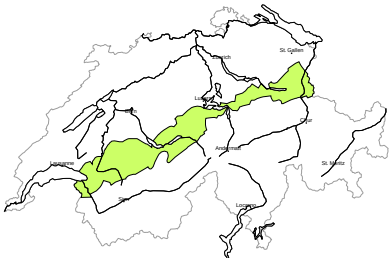
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

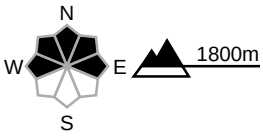
Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed on Tuesday at elevated altitudes. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow. They can reach medium size.
Careful route selection is recommended.

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 on Tuesday 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.

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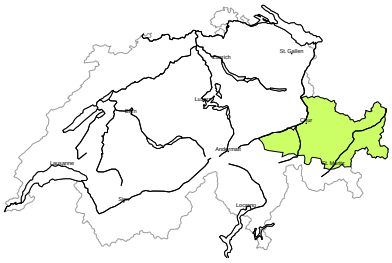
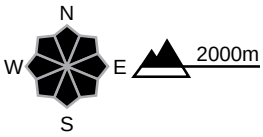
region F

Low (1)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

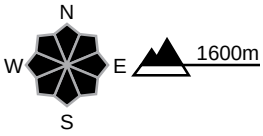
Weak layers in the old snowpack can still be released in very isolated cases in particular on extremely steep shady slopes.
In addition clearly visible wind slabs formed especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These are small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Mostly avalanches 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.

region G

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 17.12.2025, 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, the 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 it, the fresh snow and wind slabs of the past two days are lying on a thin but heavily faceted old snowpack at high altitudes.
North of the Main Alpine Ridge, there was little transportable snow, meaning that despite strong southerly winds, only small wind slabs were created in some localities. Primarily on northern and eastern slopes above approximately 2400 m, the old snowpack contains some pronounced weak layers, particularly in the inneralpine regions of Valais and throughout Grisons, but hardly any avalanches have been reported for days.

Weather review for Wednesday

In the north, a few flakes of snow fell locally during the night. As the day progressed, it became partly sunny from the west. In the south, it was very cloudy and it snowed, especially during the night. The snowfall level was mostly between 1200 and 1500 m.

Fresh snow
From Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning, the following amounts fell above approximately 2000 m:
- Ticino and Moesano: 15 to 20 cm, with up to 30 cm in the Valle Maggia
- Rest of the Main Alpine Ridge: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere mainly dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around 0 °C

Wind
- Moderate southerly wind in the north during the night
- Otherwise light

Weather forecast to Thursday

It will be very cloudy in the south and a little snow will fall above 1600 m overnight to Thursday. It will be sunny in all other regions.

Fresh snow
Up to 5 centimetres in the south

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

Wind
- Light, becoming a moderate southwesterly wind in the west and in the high alpine regions as the day progresses
- A foehn wind will develop in the north during the course of the day

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Outlook until Saturday

On Friday conditions will be mostly sunny in the mountains. There will be moderate and locally strong southwesterly winds in the west and foehn winds in the valleys of the north. On Saturday it will be mostly sunny at first, then clouds will gather from the west. There will be light winds.
The avalanche danger will decrease, but only slowly in Valais, Grisons and the south due to the weak structure of the snowpack.