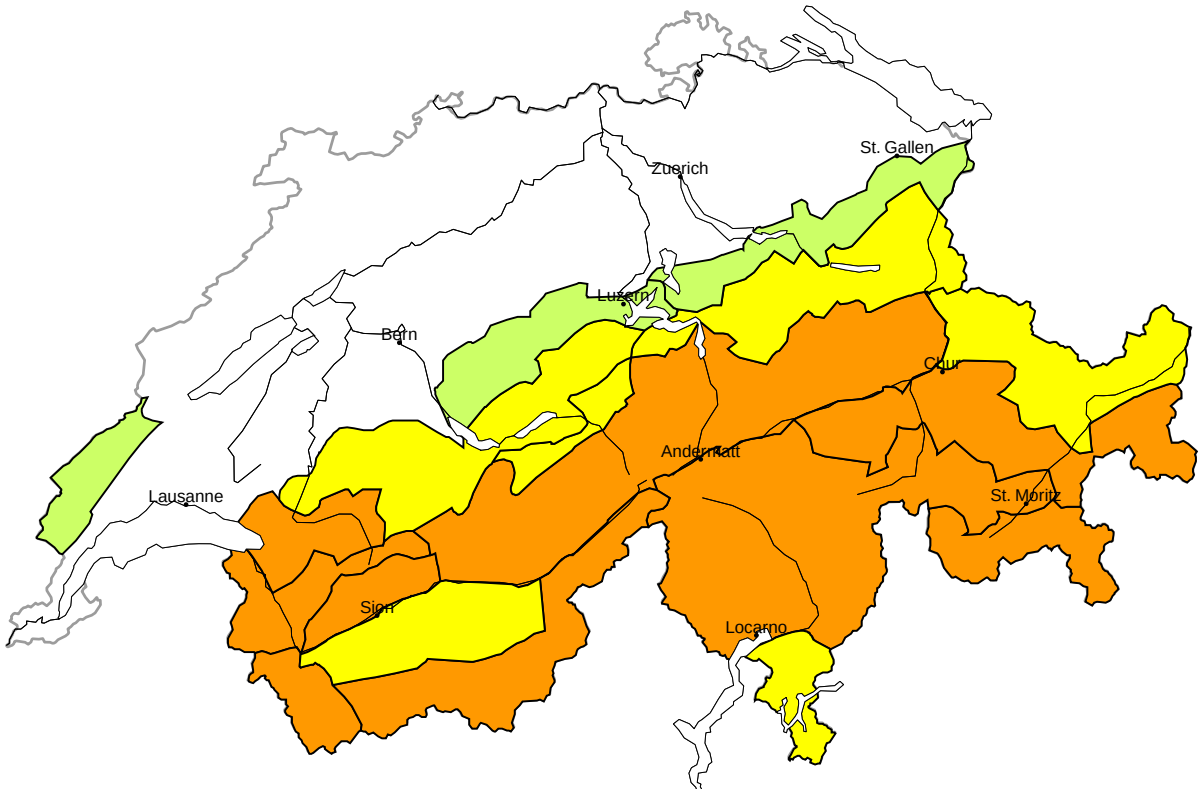
Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 27. January 2025

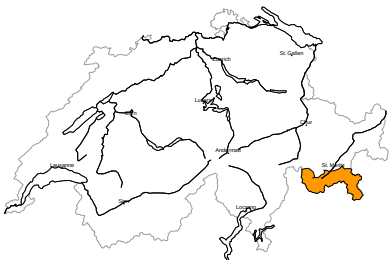
Avalanche danger

updated on 27.1.2025, 08:00



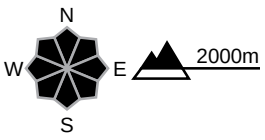
region A

Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a small amount of snow is lying for the time of year. The large quantity of fresh snow of Sunday and the wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. As a consequence of new snow and stormy weather the wind slabs will increase in size additionally as the day progresses. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. Natural avalanches are possible in particular on steep shady slopes. In many cases the avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size in isolated cases. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

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

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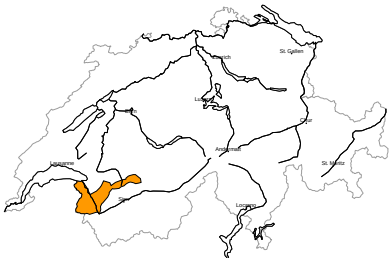
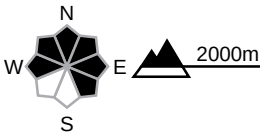
region B

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



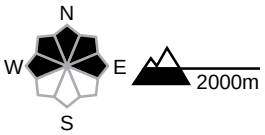
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

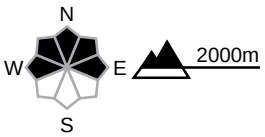
The rain will give rise to thorough wetting of the snowpack at intermediate altitudes. In particular on very steep shady slopes wet small and medium sized avalanches are possible. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region C

Considerable (3=)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. As a consequence of a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the course of the day. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Individual natural avalanches are possible. The avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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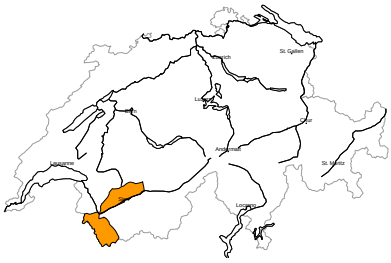
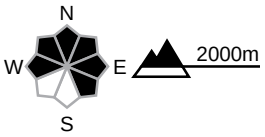
region D

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

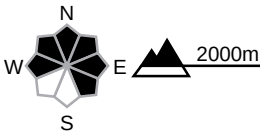
As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.

region E

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

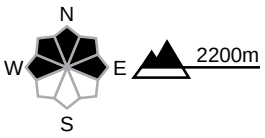
As a consequence of a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. Even single persons can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.

region F

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size.
The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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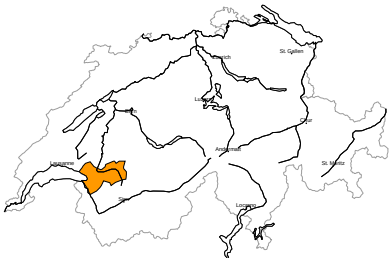
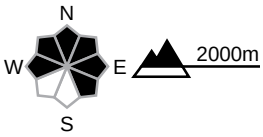
region G

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



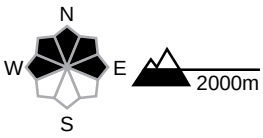
Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. Even single persons can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow

Avalanche prone locations

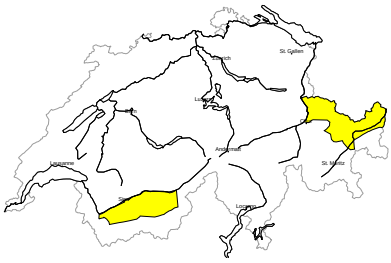


Danger description

The rain will give rise to thorough wetting of the snowpack at intermediate altitudes. In particular on very steep shady slopes wet small and medium sized avalanches are possible. 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.

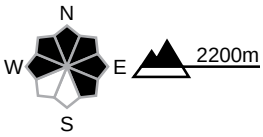
region H

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. 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.

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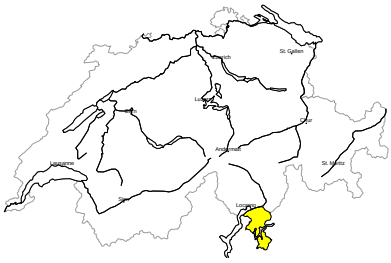
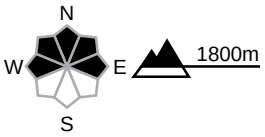
region I

Moderate (2+)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Persons can release avalanches in some places. These can reach medium size.

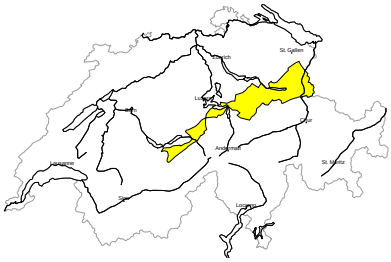
Moderate (2)

Wet snow

As the snowfall level rises moist snow slides are to be expected as the day progresses.

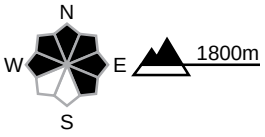
region J

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Even single persons can release avalanches in some places. These can reach medium size in isolated cases.
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

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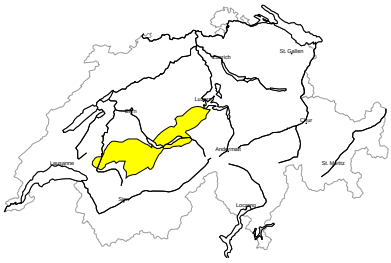
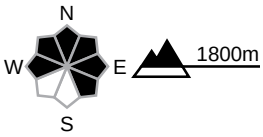
region K

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



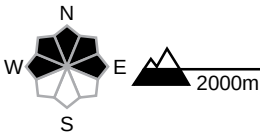
Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Even single persons can release avalanches in some places. These can reach medium size in isolated cases.
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow

Avalanche prone locations

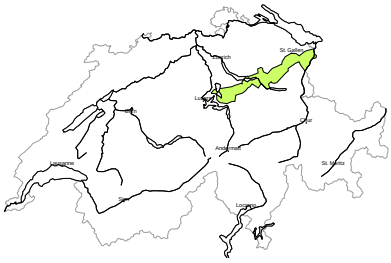


Danger description

The rain will give rise to thorough wetting of the snowpack at intermediate altitudes. In particular on very steep shady slopes wet small and medium sized avalanches are possible. 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.

region L

Low (1)

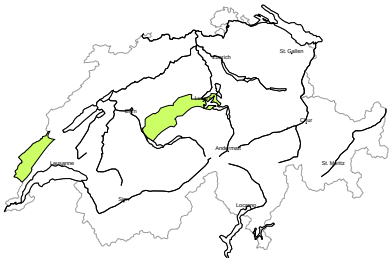


No distinct avalanche problem

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.

region M

Low (1)



Wet snow

Only a little snow is lying. The rain will give rise to thorough wetting of the snowpack. In particular on very steep shady slopes individual moist snow slides are possible. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

There has been widespread snowfall, which has been heavy on the eastern part of the main Alpine ridge. Snowdrift accumulations created by often strong southwesterly winds are lying on shady slopes on an often unfavourable old snowpack surface. These have ultimately been loosely covered with fresh snow in many places. With strong southwesterly winds, storm-force foehn winds in the north and snowfall in some regions, Monday will see further snowdrifts accumulating. In the south and in the Engadine, the entire old snowpack is faceted and loose, especially on shady slopes protected from the wind. On Monday and Tuesday, a lot more fresh snow will be deposited on this very weak snowpack from eastern Ticino to Upper Engadine. North of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine and in the extreme west of Lower Valais, the middle part of the snowpack is often well consolidated, and there is little likelihood of avalanches deep in the old snowpack.

Weather review for Sunday

Snow fell widely during the night to Sunday. The snowfall level dropped from 1800 m in the north and 1400 m in the south to around 1200 m everywhere. During the day, conditions became quite sunny in the west and south. In the east, morning snowfall was followed by bright intervals.

Fresh snow
From Saturday afternoon to Sunday lunchtime:
- main Alpine ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Bernina region and south from there: 30 to 50 cm
- rest of Ticino and rest of central Grisons: 15 to 30 cm
- elsewhere a widespread 5 to 15 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -3 °C.

Wind
From the south-west:
- strong to storm-force during the night, with a strong foehn wind from the south in the valleys of the north
- during the day mostly moderate, sometimes strong in the west

Weather forecast to Monday

Monday will be very cloudy, with foehn-like bright intervals possible in the north-east. Widespread precipitation from the west and south will set in in the morning, with the snowfall level at between around 1800 m in the west and 1400 m in the south.

Fresh snow
By Monday afternoon, the following amounts of snow will have fallen:
- westermost Lower Valais, main Alpine ridge from Mont Dolent to the Matterhorn, and from the San Bernardino Pass to the Bernina region: 20 to 30 cm
- northern Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, rest of Ticino and rest of central Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere less or dry

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

Wind
- strong to storm-force from the southwest in the north and generally at high altitudes
- a storm-force foehn wind in the valleys of the north
- moderate southerly winds in the south

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Outlook

Tuesday

Overnight to Tuesday it will snow, persistently and heavily in the south. In the west there will be longer bright spells during the day, while a little snow will continue to fall in the east. From Monday to Tuesday afternoon, there will be a widespread 15 to 30 cm of fresh snow, with 40 to 60 cm on the main Alpine ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Bernina and south from there. The snowfall level will be around 1200 m. The wind will be a moderate to strong westerly.

There will be a widespread increase in avalanche danger. In the night to Tuesday, danger level 4 (high) is expected to be reached from eastern Ticino via Val Moesa, Rheinwald, Avers and Val Bregaglia to the Bernina region. Numerous medium and large naturally triggered avalanches are expected in these regions. Very large avalanches may also occur, especially in the high Alpine regions, but they will not advance all that far because there is very little snow in the avalanche tracks. However, high-altitude transport routes will be at risk. The avalanche situation for winter sport participants will also become critical in the far west and in the other regions of Grisons and Ticino.

Wednesday

Overnight to Wednesday there will be some precipitation, especially in the west. During the day it will be quite sunny everywhere.

The risk of dry avalanches will decrease. The sunshine and fresh snow may result in moist loose snow avalanches, especially in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation in the southeast.