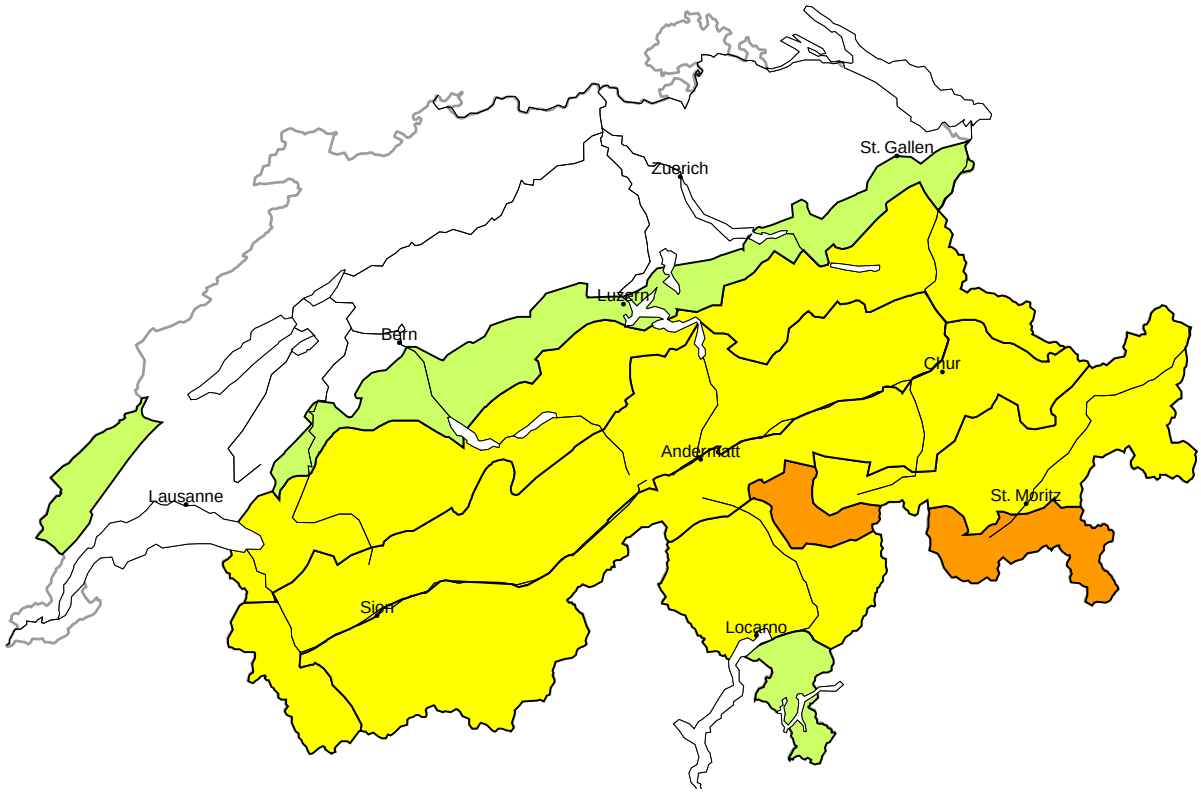
Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 17. January 2025

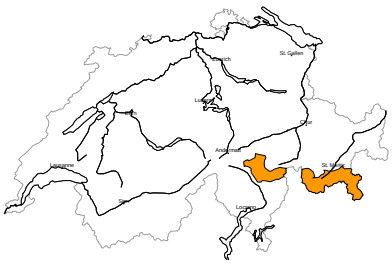
Avalanche danger

updated on 16.1.2025, 17:00



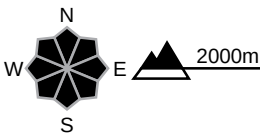
region A

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a little snow is lying. The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain and generally in high Alpine regions. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

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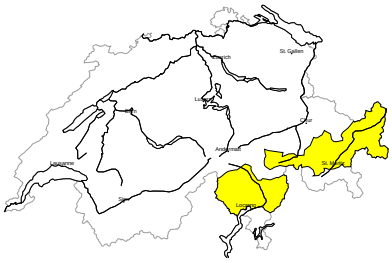
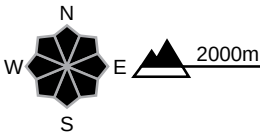
region B — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

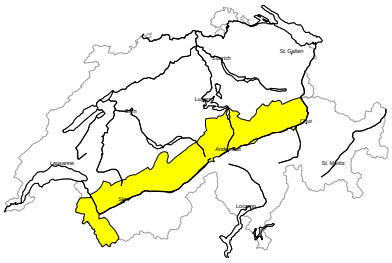
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

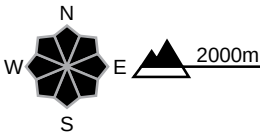
Only a little snow is lying. The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain and generally in high Alpine regions.
Defensive route selection is advisable.

region C — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

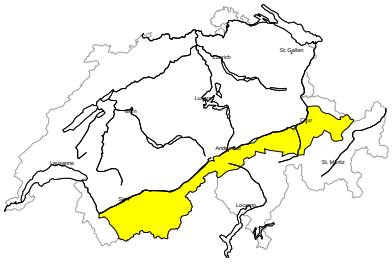
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

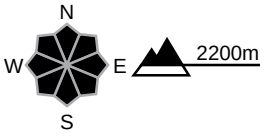
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can reach medium size.
At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Such 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, especially in little used backcountry terrain.
In addition the fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some locations. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls and generally at elevated altitudes.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

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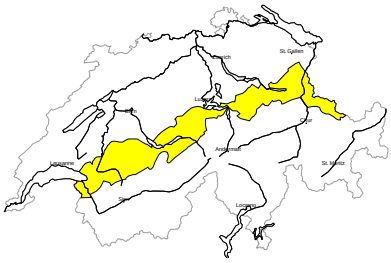
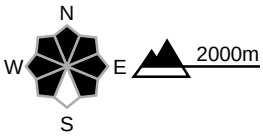
region E

Moderate (2-)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations

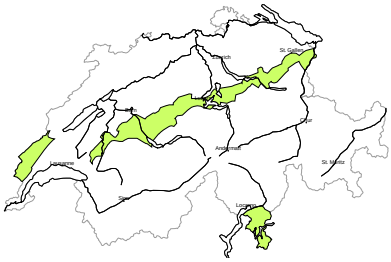


Danger description

A generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by people and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow in little used backcountry terrain.
In addition the fresh and older wind slabs should be taken into account.
Careful route selection is recommended.

region F

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

After a longer period with frequent strong winds from the northeast and at the end from the southeast, the snowpack is strongly affected by the wind in many places. The fresh and often somewhat older snowdrift accumulations are lying on an old snowpack, which varies in nature from region to region:

- south of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, at high altitude there are distinct weak layers in the snowpack in which avalanches can still be triggered in places, sometimes reaching down to ground level. In central and southern Ticino, as well as in Val Bregaglia and Val Poschiavo, there is so little old snow that near-ground weak layers are mainly only thick enough to trigger an avalanche above approximately 2600 m.
- North of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine and in the extreme west of Lower Valais, the snowpack structure is more favourable. Hardly any avalanches starting in weak layers in the near-ground old snowpack are to be expected.

Weather review for Thursday

Conditions were sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south.

Wind

- There was a moderate northeasterly wind in the night that was sometimes strong in the Jura, the Prealps and in northern Ticino.
- During the day there was a moderate southeasterly wind that was also strong for a time on the Northern Alpine Ridge.

Weather forecast until Friday

Conditions will be sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow
-

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

Wind
Easterly wind moderate in the high Alpine regions and light elsewhere

Outlook

On Saturday it will be sunny in the mountains and mild, particularly in the north. On Sunday, it will continue to be sunny in the north in the mountains but very cloudy in the south with slight snowfall above approximately 1000 m. On both days there will be a moderate south to southeasterly wind, with a tendency towards foehn winds in the north on Sunday.
The avalanche danger will decrease, but only slowly in areas with persistent weak layers.