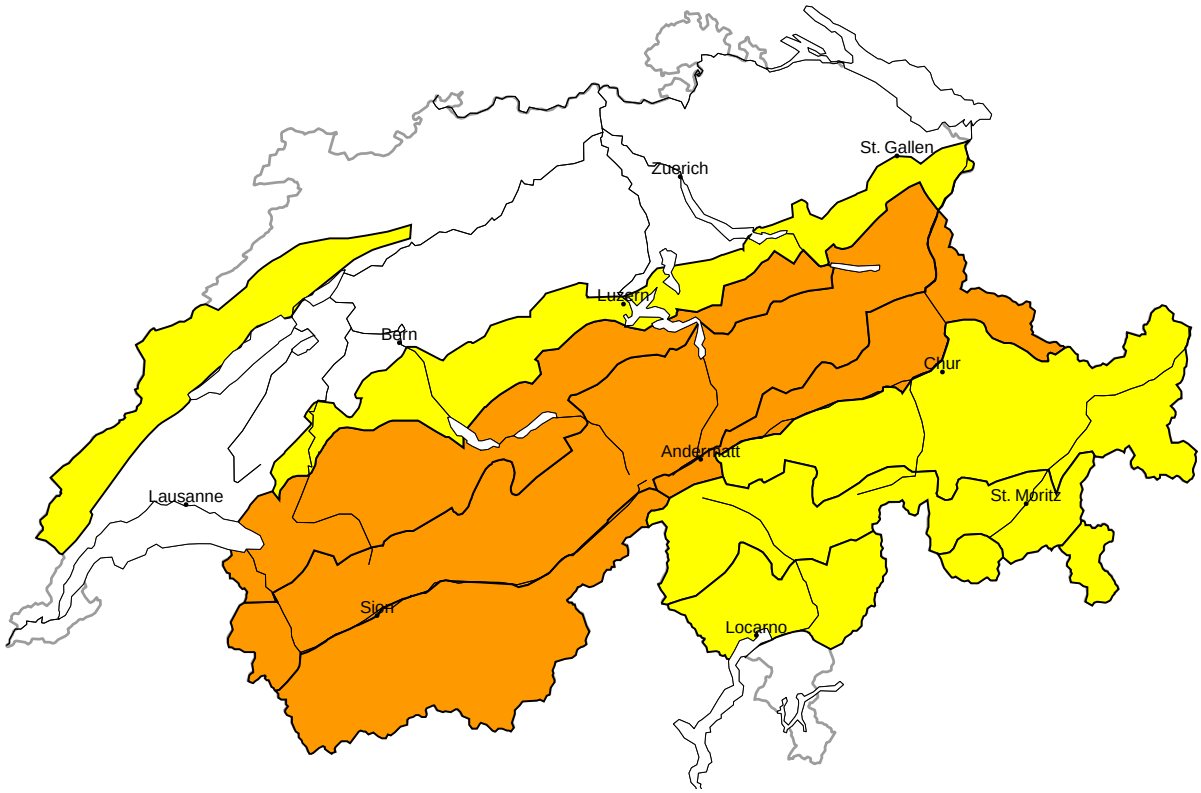
Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 4. January 2025

Avalanche danger

updated on 4.1.2025, 08:00

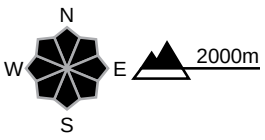


region A

Considerable (3=)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. New snow and wind slabs can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deep layers. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

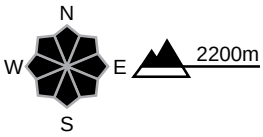
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 4. January 2025

region B — Considerable (3=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

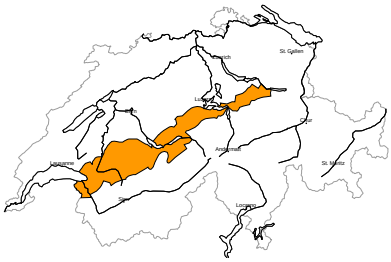
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

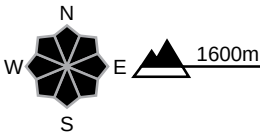
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can in some cases release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Such avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



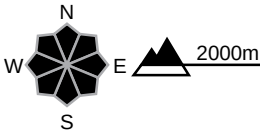
Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. New snow and wind slabs can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Mostly the avalanches are medium-sized.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



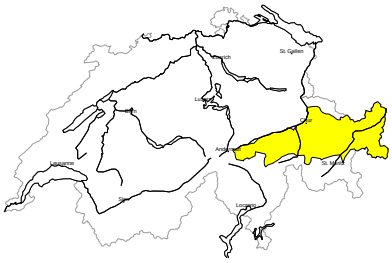
Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. New snow and wind slabs can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deep layers. Mostly the avalanches are medium-sized.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 4. January 2025

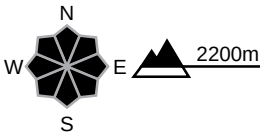
region E

Moderate (2+)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

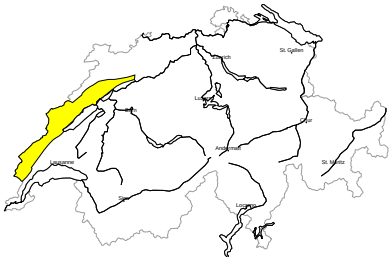


Danger description

A treacherous avalanche situation will prevail. Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. 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.
As a consequence of new snow and a moderate northwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed. They are prone to triggering.
Ski touring calls for defensive route selection. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

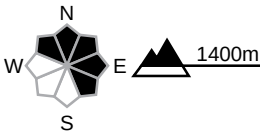
region F

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

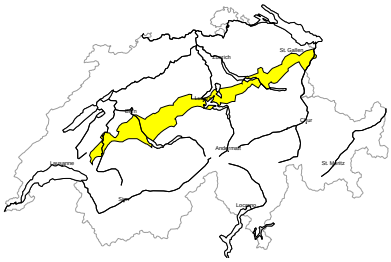


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind, wind slabs formed. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. They are in some cases prone to triggering. The wind slabs are covered with new snow and therefore barely recognisable.
Careful route selection is recommended.

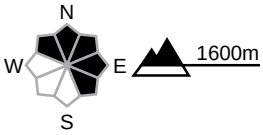
region G

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



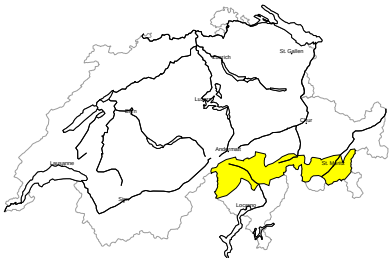
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind, wind slabs formed. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. They are in some cases prone to triggering. The wind slabs are covered with new snow and therefore barely recognisable.
Careful route selection is recommended.

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 4. January 2025

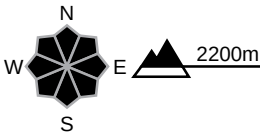
region H

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

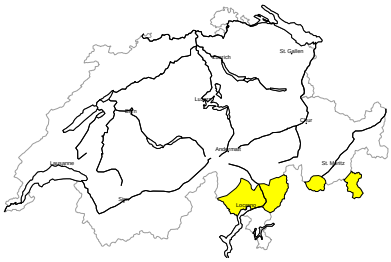


Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain,, also at a distance from ridgelines. Avalanches can reach medium size. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
As a consequence of northerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed at elevated altitudes. They can in some cases be released easily.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

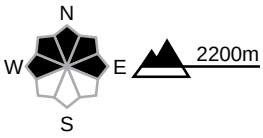
region I

Moderate (2-)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a little snow is lying. Wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They can still be released in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Mostly the 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 3.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

New snow and drift snow from the night into Friday are often lying on an unfavourable old snow surface. They are often still prone to triggering.
There are widespread faceted weaklayers deep in the snowpack. North of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, these are often covered by thick, compact layers of snow. Avalanches in deeper layers may only be triggered in isolated cases and especially in places with little snow. In other regions, avalanches may still be triggered in weak layers near the ground and may still become large. Especially along the Main Alpine Ridge in the Grisons, in the Upper Engadine and in central Ticino there is still only little snow. In these regions avalanches may become up to medium in size.
In the northern and western regions with a lot of snow, medium and occasionally large gliding avalanches are still possible.

Weather review for Friday, 03.01.2025

During the night into Friday, it snowed widely down to low altitudes. During the day it was increasingly sunny, first in the south and west, then also in the east.

Fresh snow
The snowfall level was at low altitude. It snowed during the night into Friday:
- Extreme west of Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 30 cm, up to 40 cm particularly in the northern parts of the Gotthard region
- Jura, rest of Valais: 10 to 20 cm
- Rest of northern Ticino, northern and rest of central Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 5 to 10 cm
- further south: less or dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -9 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south.

Wind
- During the night into Friday, initially strong from the west
- Moderate to strong winds from the north to northwest during the second half of the night and in the late morning at high altitudes

Weather forecast until Saturday, 04.01.2025

After a clear night, clouds will gather in the west in the early morning and in the east in the afternoon. It will be quite sunny on the southern flank of the Alps.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
Temperatures will rise. At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the north and -6 °C in the south.

Wind
From the west, moderate at high altitudes, increasingly strong as the day progresses

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 4. January 2025

Outlook

Sunday
There will be some precipitation over a wide area in the north during the night into Sunday. The snowfall level will increase to 2200 to 2400 m on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, and will remain lower for longer in northern and central Grisons. During the day it will be quite sunny in the west. There will be strong to stormy westerly to southwesterly winds at high altitudes. It will be mostly very cloudy on the southern flank of the Alps. The zero-degree level will be around 3000 m. The danger of dry avalanches will increase in the north with precipitation. With rain, more moist snow slides and gliding avalanches are expected in the north at intermediate and low altitudes. The avalanche danger will not change significantly in the south.

Monday
It will be quite sunny in the north. In the south, it will be mostly very cloudy with some snow falling above 1000 m. There will be strong to stormy southwesterly winds at high altitudes, and storm-force foehn wind from the south in the Alpine valleys. The avalanche danger will begin to increase in the south, but will not change significantly in the north.