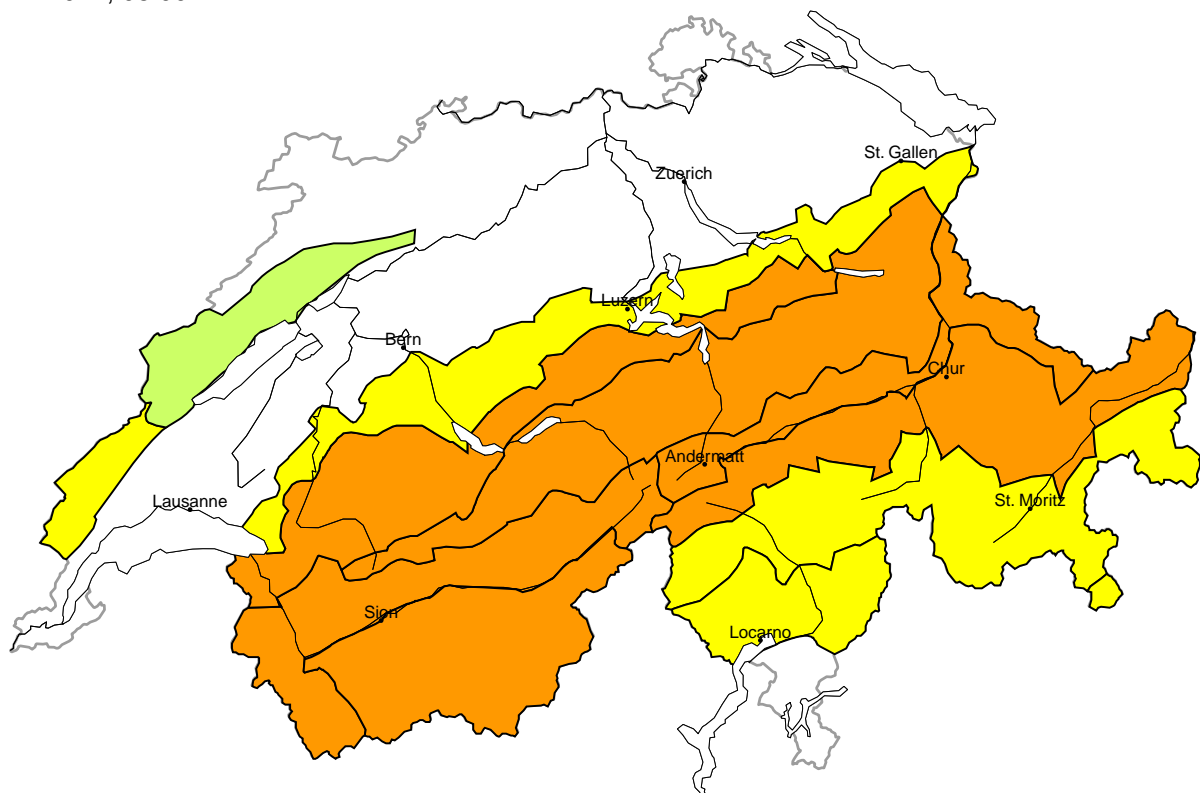
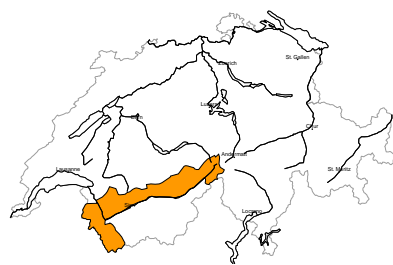


Avalanche danger
updated on 22.12.2024, 08:00



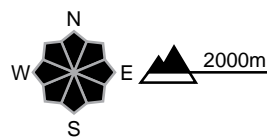
region A

Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

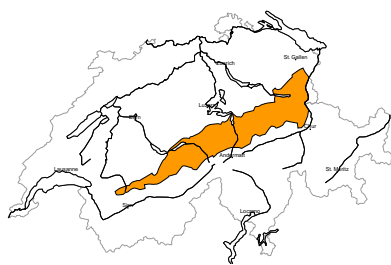
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Avalanches can reach large size.

As a consequence of the heavy snowfall more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. In the afternoon probably danger level 4 (high) will be reached.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience and restraint.

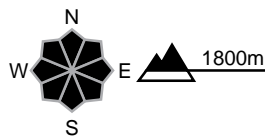
region B

Considerable (3+)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size.
As a consequence of the heavy snowfall more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. In the afternoon possibly danger level 4 (high) will be reached.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience and restraint.

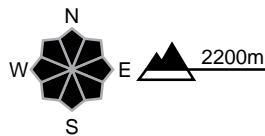
region C

Considerable (3=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

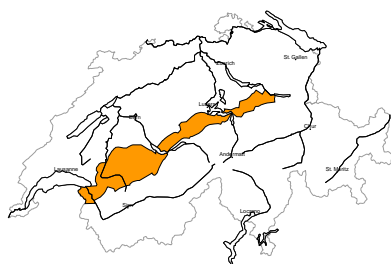


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a storm force northwesterly wind, extensive wind slabs will form. Avalanches can be released easily. Additionally to some extent avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size. As the day progresses as a consequence of the new snow there will be an increase in the danger within the current danger level. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience and restraint.

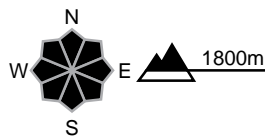
region D

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

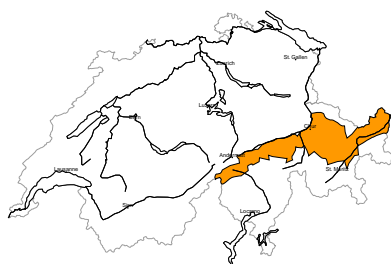


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force westerly wind, extensive wind slabs will form. These can be released easily by a single winter sport participant. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Avalanches can reach large size in the afternoon. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

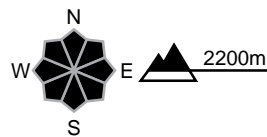
region E

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

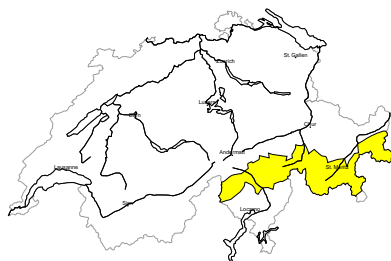


Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. As a consequence of the snowfall the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

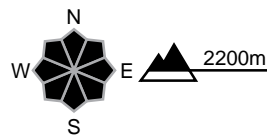
region F

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

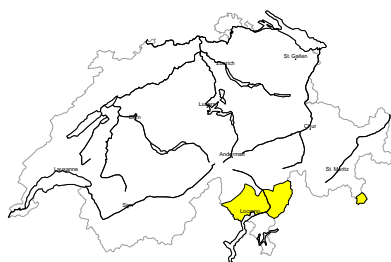


Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. Small to medium-sized avalanches are possible. As a consequence of new snow and a strengthening northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the course of the day. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

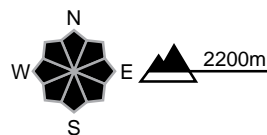
region G

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

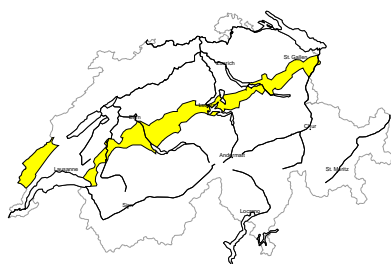


Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The wind slabs of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They are small but can be released easily. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls. 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.

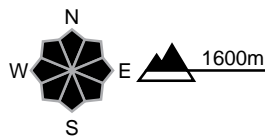
region H

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

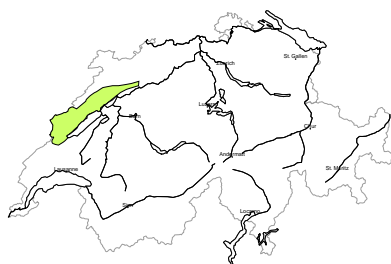


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force westerly wind, wind slabs will form. These can be released easily in some places. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

region I

Low (1)



Wind slab

Only a little snow is lying. The small wind slabs represent the main danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extreme terrain and in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.12.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

The very large volumes of fresh snow expected in the coming days will in many places fall on an unfavourable old snowpack. Particularly on western, northern and eastern slopes, there are pronounced weak layers in the snowpack where avalanches may start. In the Lower Valais and on the northern Alpine ridge, these weak layers are already somewhat more thickly covered than in other regions, but are still susceptible to triggering. On the southern flank of the Alps, in the Engadine and in central Grisons, the snowpack is mainly still thin, but consequently often completely faceted.

Weather review for Saturday

On the western part of the northern flank of the Alps it was mostly cloudy, otherwise often sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, around -5 °C.

Wind

Moderate to strong northerly winds during the night in the south, otherwise weak to moderate winds from the west

Weather forecast to Sunday

Precipitation from the west will set in overnight to Sunday. During the day, precipitation will be intense and persistent in the windward regions in the west and north. The snowfall level during the night on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais will still be around 1200 to 1600 m, and lower in other regions. During the day, the level will fall to low altitudes in all regions.

Fresh snow

From Saturday evening to Sunday afternoon above 1600 m:

- western Lower Valais, northern Alpine ridge: 40 to 70 cm
- rest of Valais: 30 to 50 cm
- Jura peaks, remaining northern flank of the Alps, remaining Gotthard region, northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm
- otherwise 10 to 20 cm, less or dry in the very south

Temperature

Decreasing as the day progresses; at midday at 2000 m between -6 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south.

Wind

Increasingly stormy westerly wind

Avalanche danger will continue to increase in all regions. A forecast of danger level 4 (high) is widely expected for Monday from Valais across the northern flank of the Alps to northern Grisons. In regions exposed to heavier precipitation, very large naturally triggered avalanches are increasingly expected. Due to the low snowfall level, avalanches can carry along a lot of new snow even at intermediate altitudes and advance into the valleys along usual avalanche paths. Exposed parts of transportation routes will be at risk.

The avalanche situation will remain very critical. In regions exposed to heavier precipitation, avalanche danger may increase somewhat overnight to Tuesday, depending on the amount and intensity of precipitation.