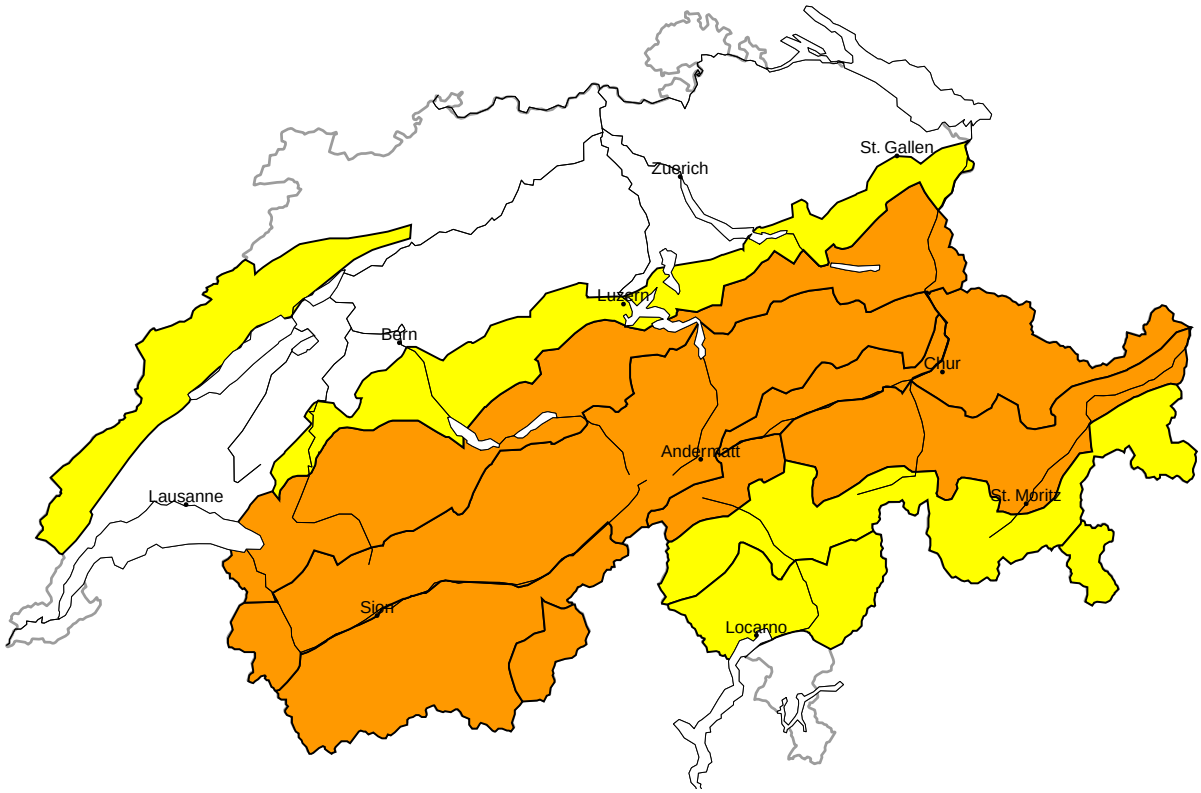
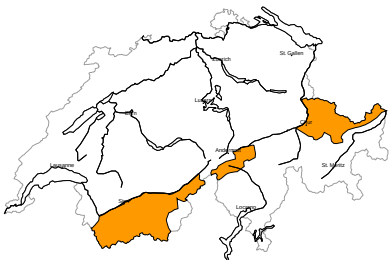
Avalanche bulletin through Wednesday, 25. December 2024

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.12.2024, 17:00

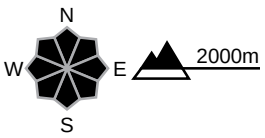


region A — Considerable (3+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible.

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

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

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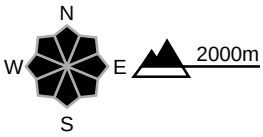
region B

Considerable (3+)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



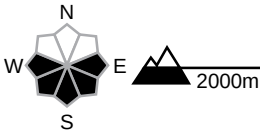
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

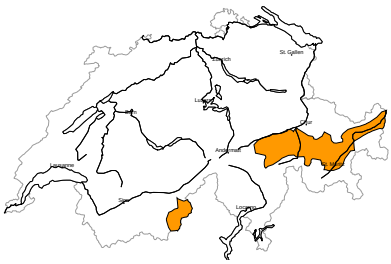


Danger description

More frequent gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. Slides can occur on cut slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

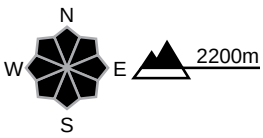
region C

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



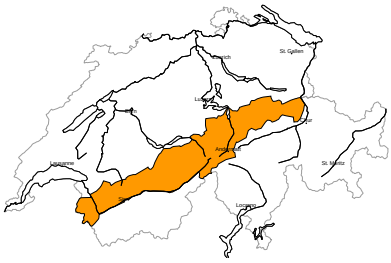
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Whumpfing 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.

Avalanche bulletin through Wednesday, 25. December 2024

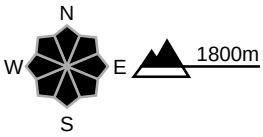
region D

Considerable (3=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



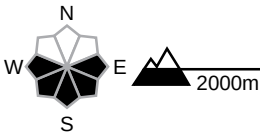
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are in some cases still prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can in isolated cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

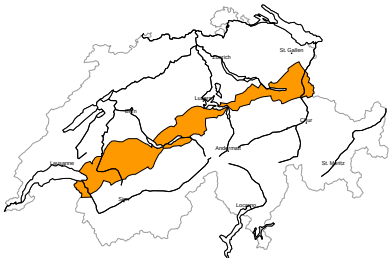


Danger description

More frequent gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. Slides can occur on cut slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

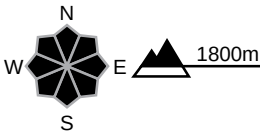
region E

Considerable (3-)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



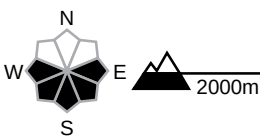
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last three days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

More frequent gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. Slides can occur on cut slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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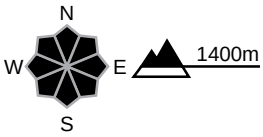
region F

Moderate (2+)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



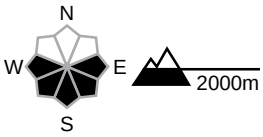
Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs can still be released in some cases. This applies especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls, as well as on very steep slopes. 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.
Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

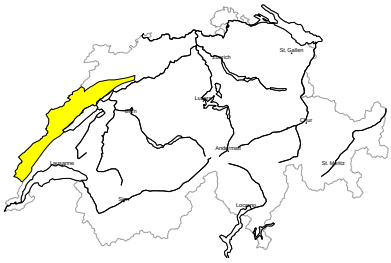


Danger description

More frequent gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. Slides can occur on cut slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

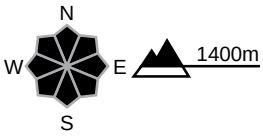
region G

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs can still be released in some cases. This applies especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls, as well as on very steep slopes. 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.
Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

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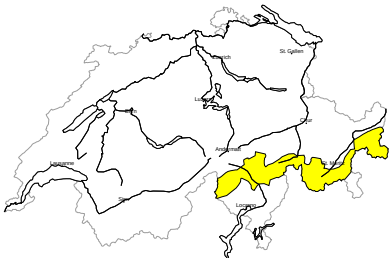
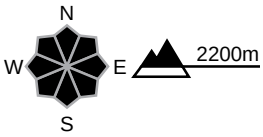
region H

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

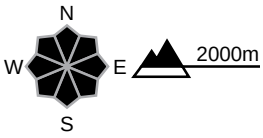
As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, wind slabs formed in the last two days. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. Small to medium-sized avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation 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 I

Moderate (2=)

Wind slab

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 mostly 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 24.12.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

Since Saturday, a widespread 80 to 150 cm of snow has fallen in the north, accompanied by strong to stormy westerly to northerly winds. The new and drifted snow is covering a faceted weakly bonded old snowpack, especially on west-, north- and east-facing slopes. However, the thick layer covering the weakly bonded old snow should have a positive effect in the coming days and reduce probable triggering in the old snow. The situation is more critical in southern Valais and from northern Ticino through northern Grisons to Lower Engadine, where the weakly bonded old snow is covered by around 50 to 80 cm of snow. South of this region, in central and southern Grisons and in central Ticino, there is still little snow, and the thin old snowpack is mainly fully faceted and loose. It is lightly covered with fresh snowdrift accumulations, but these are prone to triggering.

Weather review for Tuesday, 24 December 2024

Snow continued to fall in the north during the night. During the day, snowfall subsided and it became sunny from the west. In the south, it remained mostly dry and was mostly sunny during the day.

Fresh snow
The following amounts of snow fell from Monday to Tuesday afternoon
- northern Lower Valais, Urn and Glarus Alps, Tujetsch and northern Surselva: 30 to 50 cm
- other regions north of the Rhone-Rhine, southern Lower Valais, Goms, Gotthard region, Prättigau: 20 to 30 cm
- Jura, Val d'Anniviers, Turtmann, Visp valleys and Simplon area, rest of northern Grisons, Filisur-Bergün to the Julier Pass, northern Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
- a few centimetres or dry further south.

In total, the following amounts of snow fell above 1500 m between Saturday evening and Tuesday afternoon:
- northern Alpine ridge, Gotthard region: 100 to 150 cm
- rest of northern flank of the Alps except for the Prealps, rest of Valais: 60 to 90 cm
- Prealps, rest of northern Grisons, western Jura: 40 to 60 cm
- central Grisons, Engadine north of the Inn: 20 to 40 cm
- other regions: less than 20 cm or dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m around -6 °C in the west and south and -10 °C in the east

Wind
Northern Alpine ridge, main Alpine ridge and Grisons strong to stormy northerly wind

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Weather forecast to Wednesday, 25 December 2024

Conditions will be sunny.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m between +2 °C in the west and south and -1 °C in the east

Wind
- moderate northeasterly wind at altitude
- rising Bise wind in the western Prealps and the Jura

Outlook

Conditions will be sunny and very mild, with mostly light winds. The zero-degree level will be over 3000 m.
Avalanche danger will continue to decrease, especially in the north. There will be an issue with persistent weak layers in southern Valais and from northern Ticino through northern Grisons to Lower Engadine. The avalanche danger in these regions will consequently decrease only very slowly. Moist snow slides may occur on steep sunny slopes and gliding avalanches are possible at intermediate and low altitudes.