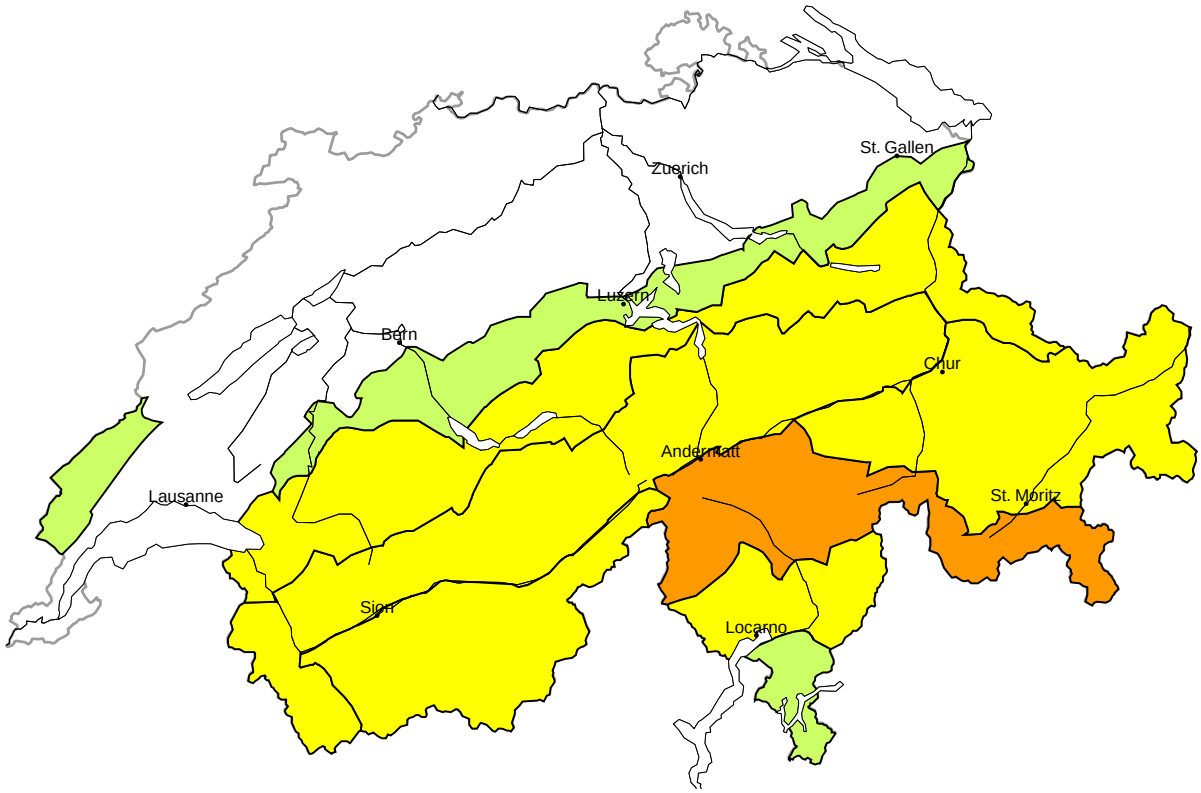
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 16. January 2025

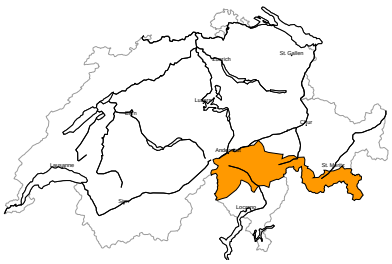
Avalanche danger

updated on 16.1.2025, 08:00



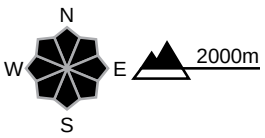
region A

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular in little used backcountry terrain.

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, further wind slabs formed on Wednesday. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.

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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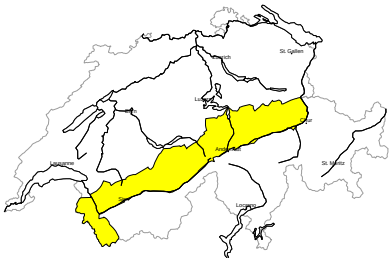
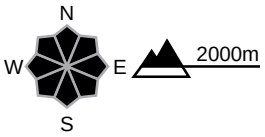
region B — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

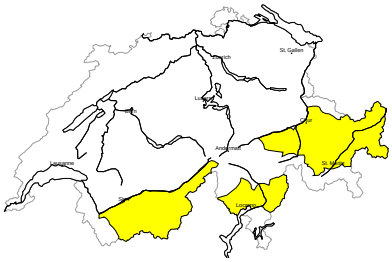
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

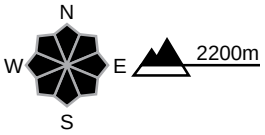
As a consequence of a strong to storm force northeasterly wind, wind slabs formed in the last few days at elevated altitudes. As a consequence of southeasterly wind, small wind slabs will form on Thursday in particular on north facing slopes. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.
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 C — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

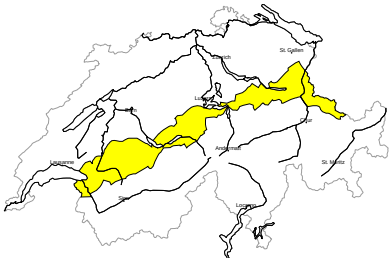
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

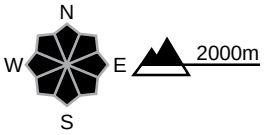
In isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Such avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow in places that are protected from 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.

region D — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released by people, but they will be small in most cases.
Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

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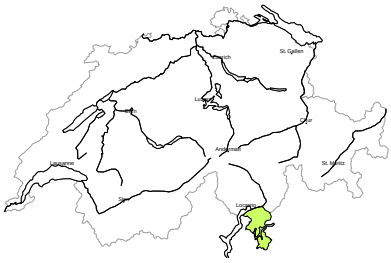
region E

Low (1)

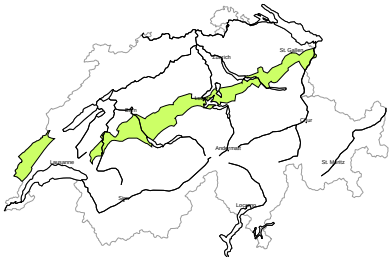


No distinct avalanche problem

From a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying. 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.

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 15.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

At higher altitudes, the north to northeasterly wind was again strong and locally storm-force. Due to considerable snow transport in recent days with a similar wind direction, little transportable snow remains. Snowdrift accumulations from Wednesday are therefore relatively small. Thursday's southeasterly wind will result in further, mostly small snowdrift accumulations at higher altitudes. Fresh and older snowdrift accumulations are lying on old snowpack, which varies in nature from region to region:

- south of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, at higher altitudes 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 near-ground old snowpack are to be expected.

Weather review for Wednesday

Conditions were very sunny in the west and south. Otherwise it was initially overcast, but largely dry. In the afternoon, conditions also became increasingly sunny in the Bernese Oberland and Grisons.

Fresh snow
-

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

Wind
From north to northeast

- sometimes storm-force on the Northern Alpine Ridge and in the Jura
- moderate to strong elsewhere

Weather forecast to Thursday

Conditions will be sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south.

Wind

- often moderate from the east
- briefly strong at times from the southeast to south in the morning on the Northern Alpine Ridge

Outlook

Conditions will be sunny in the mountains on Friday and Saturday. It will become milder, especially in the north. The wind will be mostly light from the east.
Avalanche danger will decrease, but only slowly in areas with persistent weak layers.