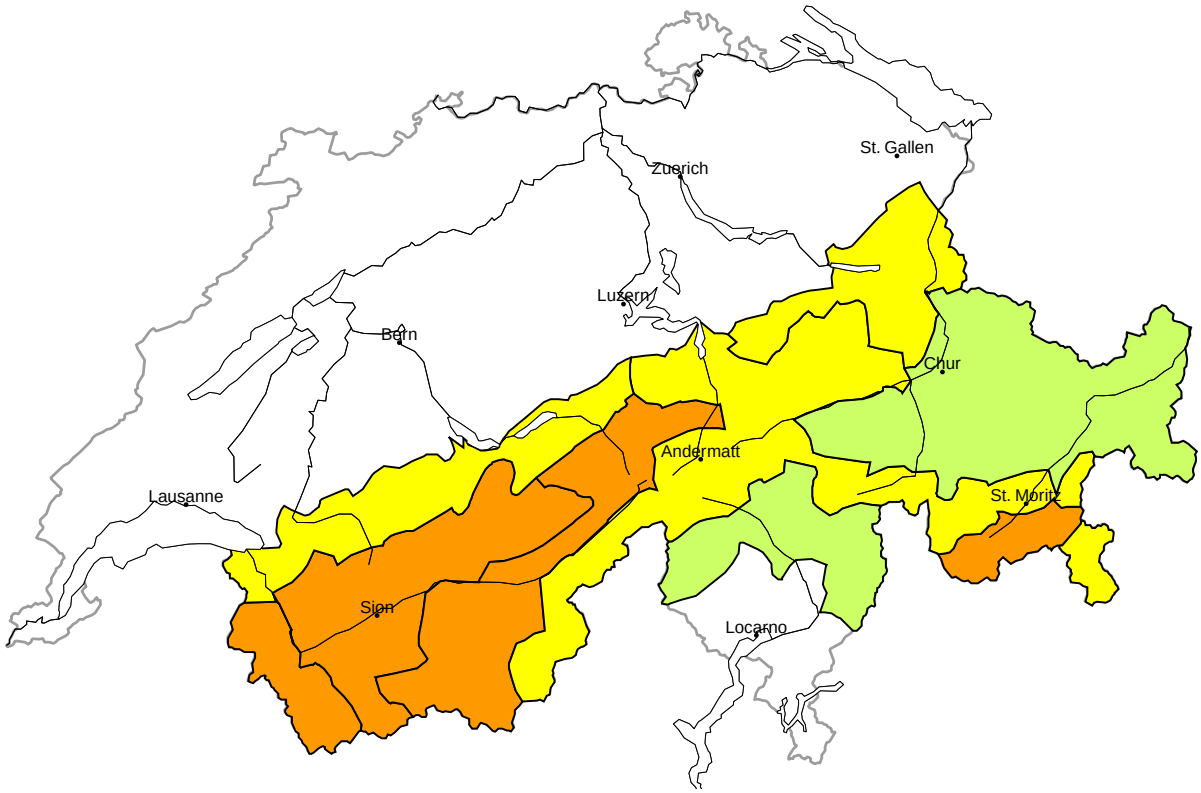
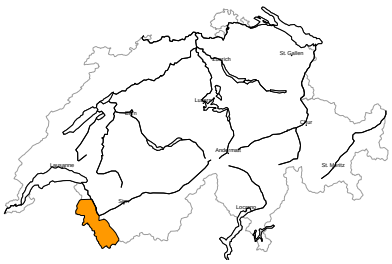
Avalanche danger

updated on 23.10.2025, 17:00

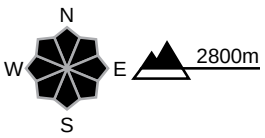


region A — Considerable (3+)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some regions 100 cm of snow has fallen since Monday above approximately 2800 m. As a consequence of new snow and a storm force westerly wind, large wind slabs formed in particular in areas not adjacent to ridgelines. On Friday wind slabs will form over a wide area. New snow and wind slabs can be released by people. Natural avalanches are to be expected in particular during the night. Avalanches can reach large size.
Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience and restraint.

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

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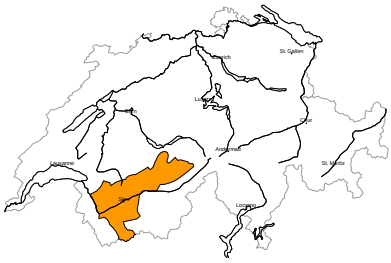
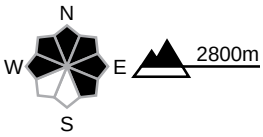
region B — Considerable (3=)



New snow

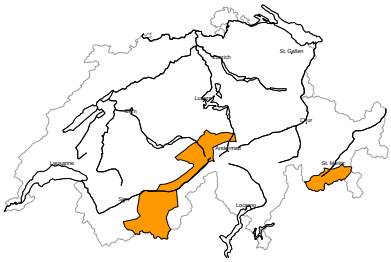
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

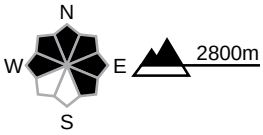
As a consequence of new snow and a storm force westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in particular in areas not adjacent to ridgelines. On Friday wind slabs will form over a wide area. New snow and wind slabs can be released by people. Natural avalanches are possible in particular during the night. They can in isolated cases reach large size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at the base of rock walls and in gullies and bowls. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Considerable (3-)



New snow

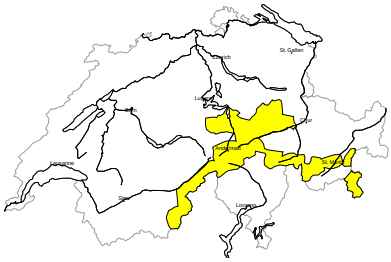
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

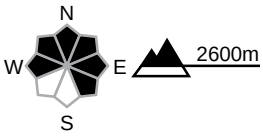
New snow and wind slabs can be released by people. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at the base of rock walls and in gullies and bowls. Single persons can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs can be released easily in some cases. Avalanches can reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at the base of rock walls and 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.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

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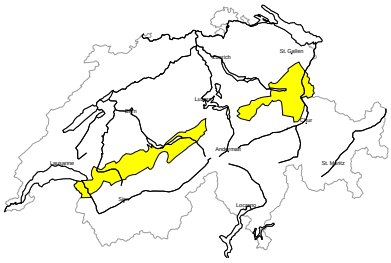
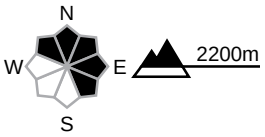
region E

Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

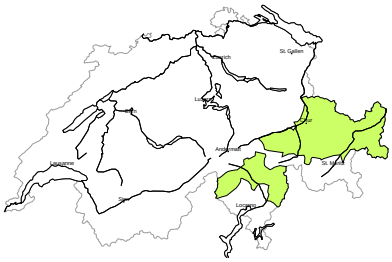


Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Persons can release avalanches in some places. The avalanches are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

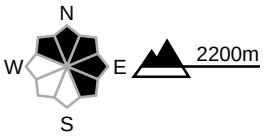
region F

Low (1)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind will transport the new snow. The wind slabs are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are present in all aspects and the danger is slightly greater.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.10.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

At the beginning of this week, there was a snowpack, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2800 m and in the glaciated high Alpine regions in general. In these areas, this week's fresh snow was deposited on steep shady slopes in particular, in some places on a crusted snowpack surface and in others on a faceted surface.
With the rain, the snow either became wet or melted away on Thursday up to around 2600 m. Above this level, the stormy southwesterly wind has transported the new snow significantly. The wind slabs are generally lying at a distance from ridgelines, mostly at the base of rock walls, in gullies and bowls.
With the fresh snow at intermediate altitudes and a strong westerly wind, further wind slabs will develop on Friday. It is also becoming increasingly wintry at intermediate and high altitudes. Due to the falling temperatures, hardly any wet slides are to be expected.

Weather review for Thursday

It was very cloudy and there was widespread precipitation. It cooled appreciably from the north-west. The snowfall level dropped from around 2600 m to between 1600 and 2000 m.

Fresh snow
From Wednesday to Thursday afternoon, the following amounts will fall above approximately 3000 m:
- extreme west of Lower Valais: 40 to 60 cm, locally up to 70 cm on the border with France
- Northern Alpine ridge from the Wildhorn to the Jungfrau region: 20 to 40 cm
- the rest of western and northern Valais, Bedretto and from Val Bregaglia to the Bernina Pass: 15 to 30 cm
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres.

This means that, over the past 3 days, more than 1 m of fresh snow has fallen in the high Alpine regions in the extreme west of Lower Valais on the border with France.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in the west and +5 °C in the east

Wind
Strong to stormy in the north and in general in the high Alpine regions, elsewhere moderate to strong from southwest to west

Weather forecast to Friday

During the night into Friday, snow will fall in Valais and the north above 1000 to 1200 m. As the day progresses, the snowfall will subside and it will be variably cloudy with sunny spells. Conditions will be mostly sunny in the south.

Fresh snow
From Thursday to Friday afternoon, above approximately 2000 m:
- Lower Valais, northern Alpine ridge from the Dents du Midi to the Titlis: 20 to 40 cm
- Northern Upper Valais, the rest of the northern Alpine ridge, Prättigau, Silvretta and Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere a few centimetres; dry in the south

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the north and 0 °C in the south

Wind
The westerly to northwesterly wind will be
- strong to stormy during the night into Friday
- During the day, it will remain mostly strong at high altitude

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Outlook

In the north, it will be cloudy to very cloudy at the weekend and snow will fall above 1200 to 1600 m. In the south, it will be mostly sunny on both days. The wind will be mostly strong in the north and in the high Alpine regions on Saturday, elsewhere moderate to strong from westerly directions.
In total, 20 to 40 cm of snow will fall in the extreme west of Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, and 50 cm in the far west. In the rest of Valais and in Prättigau, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall.
The risk of dry avalanches will not change significantly. Gliding avalanches are possible in regions exposed to a lot of new snow.