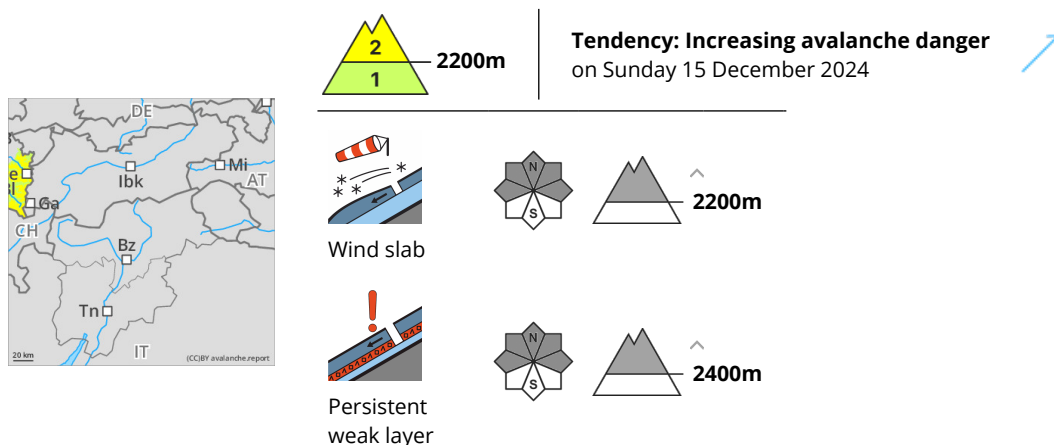


Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Freshly generated snowdrifts. Isolated danger zones in old snow.

Danger assessment

Above 2200m, fresh, small snowdrift accumulations are often prone to triggering, occur on shady slopes behind protruberances in the landscape, in gullies and bowls and on wind-loaded slopes. Spread and size tend to increase with ascending altitude and during the course of the day. Apart from the risks of avalanches, the dangers of being swept along and forced to take a fall need to be taken into consideration. Above 2400m, isolated avalanches can be triggered also in the old snow and grow to medium size. At low altitudes isolated small glide-snow avalanches are possible, particularly on very steep sunny slopes. On slopes with glide cracks, high caution is necessary.

Snowpack

On nights with clear skies, the snowpack surface metamorphosed expansively on shady slopes. In shady places at high altitudes, weak layers are evident in the snowpack, also near ground level where the snowpack is shallow. Due to moderate southerly winds, fresh, mostly small snowdrifts accumulated in ridgeline and pass areas. As a result of intensifying westerly winds in Saturday, more trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations will be generated. On steep sunny slopes the snowpack surface was moistened up to 2800m on Friday, overnight it will form a thin melt-freeze crust. Depending on wind impact, the snow is distributed very irregularly, ridges often windblown, gullies and bowls often filled to the brim with snow.

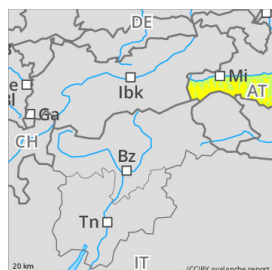
Weather

A change in weather. Right from the start, heavily overcast, hardly any sunshine, clouds will lie above summit level in the morning, thus, diffuse light conditions. In the afternoon, all summits will become shrouded in clouds, a few snowflakes will fall. Temperatures will drop. At 2000m: -4 degrees. Winds shifting to W/NW and intensifying.

Tendency

Due to fresh snowfall and strong northerly winds, avalanche danger levels will increase on Sunday.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Wind slab



2000m



Persistent
weak layer



2400m

On shady slopes isolated danger zones due to weak layers in old snow. Evaluate fresh snowdrifts with caution.

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger as of 2400m is moderate, danger is low below that altitude. On shady slopes at high and high-alpine altitudes, small-to-medium slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snow. In addition, small, fresh snowdrift accumulations will be generated near ridgelines during the course of the day. Danger zones occur mostly in transitions from shallow to deep snow, e.g. at the edge of gullies and bowls and behind protruberances in the landscape. Danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. The weight of one person is sufficient to trigger a slab in steep terrain.

Snowpack

At high and high alpine altitudes, fresh and older snowdrift accumulations have been deposited on the surfaces atop loosely-packed layers of older snow or atop surface hoar, both of which are prone to triggering. Beneath these layers, the snow which has persisted since September and November as fundament is weakened by layers of faceted crystals. The snow is distributed highly irregularly: ridges are often totally windblown, but elsewhere the fresh fallen snow also doesn't cover the base.

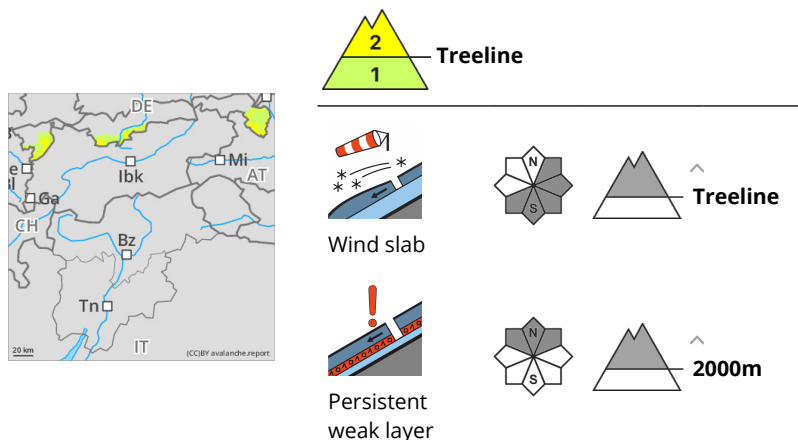
Weather

After midnight clouds will move in and towards morning light snowfall is possible in the Tauern and Lungau regions. In exposed high altitude terrain, brisk southerly winds initially, easing off during the nocturnal hours, otherwise only light winds. Temperatures will drop. On Saturday, clouds will become dense, minor snowfall is anticipated. Westerly to northwesterly winds will intensify, gusts reaching 50 km/hr in exposed terrain during the afternoon. At 2000m, temperatures will descend to -6 degrees; at 3000m, to -13 degrees centigrade. On Saturday night, moderately strong snowfall will spread far-reachingly, by Sunday morning 5-10 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected.

Tendency

As a result of fresh snowfall and wind impact, the danger from freshly generated snowdrifts will increase somewhat on Sunday.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Snowdrifts often lie deposited on weak old snow.

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger above the treeline is moderate. Snowdrifts are problematic. Fresh and older snowdrifts can trigger a small-to-medium sized slab avalanche by minimum additional loading in some places. Danger zones occur in steep east and south-facing terrain and tend to increase with ascending altitude, but still are small-sized. In addition, there is a persistent weak layer problem, unrecognizable without looking inside the snowpack. Danger zones occur in northern aspects and can be triggered particularly by large additional loading. In isolated cases they can grow to medium size.

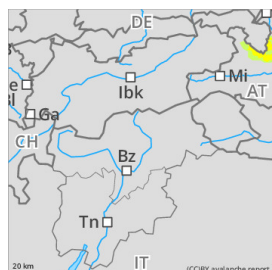
Snowpack

On south-facing slopes, a thin melt-freeze crust will form overnight in many places. On shady slopes the snow will remain soft. Westerly winds will set in during the nocturnal hours, during the daytime hours snowfall will set in. The loose snow will be transported by winds, generate snowdrifted masses in summit and ridgeline areas. Size and frequency of the drifts will tend to increase with ascending altitude. At altitudes of 1800-2200m, there is a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads, beneath which a weak layer of faceted crystals has formed. The old snowpack base has varying depths, it is often lacking in wind-exposed zones. At intermediate altitudes the snow base is often moist, wet in some places, which can lead the entire snowpack to gliding over smooth ground.

Tendency

Depending on amounts of fresh fallen snow, avalanche danger levels could increase further.

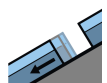
Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Persistent
weak layer



Gliding snow



On shady slopes isolated danger zones due to weak layers in old snow.

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger as of 2400m is moderate, danger is low below that altitude. On shady slopes at high and high-alpine altitudes, small-to-medium slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snow. Slab avalanches can be triggered in steep terrain particularly by large additional loading. On extremely steep grass-covered slopes, isolated small-sized glide-snow avalanches can trigger naturally. Zones beneath glide cracks should be circumvented.

Snowpack

Older snowdrift accumulations lie deposited atop soft layers at high and high alpine altitudes, beneath which are often layers of faceted crystals. The snow is distributed irregularly, ridges are often totally windblown, and the fresh fallen snow does not cover the snow base sufficiently everywhere. The entire snowpack could start to glide over smooth ground.

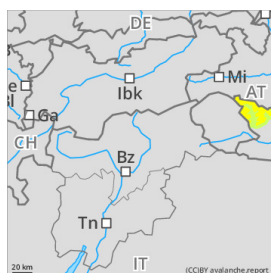
Weather

After midnight clouds will move in but bring next to no precipitation. Temperatures will drop. On Saturday, clouds will become dense, minor snowfall is anticipated. Westerly to northwesterly winds will intensify, gusts reaching 50 km/hr in exposed terrain during the afternoon. At 2000m, temperatures will descend to -6 degrees; at 3000m, to -13 degrees centigrade. On Saturday night, moderately strong snowfall will spread far-reachingly, by Sunday morning 5-15 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected.

Tendency

As a result of fresh snowfall and wind impact, the danger from freshly generated snowdrifts will increase somewhat on Sunday.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Persistent
weak layer



2400m

Avalanches can fracture in ground-level layers.

Danger assessment

Weak layers in the old snow can be triggered particularly on wind-loaded slopes by one single winter sports enthusiast. The somewhat older snowdrift accumulations are easily recognized for the practiced tourers. Danger zones tend to increase in high alpine regions. Avalanches can be medium sized in isolated cases.

Avalanche headquarters have little information from high alpine regions. For that reason, the situation must be cautiously evaluated on-site. Apart from the risks of being buried in snow masses, the danger of being swept along and forced to take a fall need to be taken into consideration.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.1: deep persistent weak layer

Older snowdrift accumulations above 2400m blanket a weak old snowpack surface. Weather conditions are improving the avalanche situation on shady slopes. The upper part of the snowpack is soft; the intermediate layers are faceted.

At all altitudes there is little snow on the ground for this juncture of the season. The snowpack is highly diverse, even over small areas.

Weather

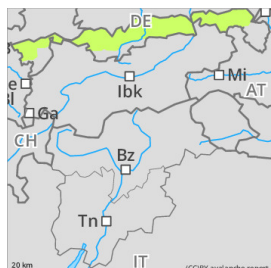
On Saturday, dense clouds will move in from the southwest, the peaks will frequently disappear in fog, sunshine will be seldom. Precipitation is not anticipated. Winds will gradually shift to northwesterly, be blowing mostly at light to moderate strength. At summit altitude, gusts of 50 km/hr are possible.

Temperatures will drop somewhat, at 3000m at midday: -11 degrees; at 2000m: -4 degrees; at 1000m: +1 degree.

Tendency

Weather conditions, and thus, also avalanche danger developments are still uncertain.

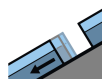
Danger Level 1 - Low



Wind slab



Treeline



Gliding snow



Winds are generating small snowdrift accumulations.

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger is low. Snowdrifts are often problematic above the treeline. Danger zones occur in steep ridgeline terrain and in wind-loaded gullies and bowls. Slab avalanches can be triggered by one single winter sports enthusiast. The releases will mostly be small-sized. In isolated cases on very steep slopes small glide-snow avalanches can release over smooth ground.

Snowpack


On south-facing slopes, a thin melt-freeze crust will form overnight in many places. On shady slopes the snow will remain soft. Westerly winds will set in during the nocturnal hours, during the daytime hours snowfall will set in. The loose snow will be transported by winds, generate snowdrifted masses in summit and ridgeline areas. Size and frequency of the drifts will tend to increase with ascending altitude. At altitudes of 1800-2200m, there is a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads, beneath which a weak layer of faceted crystals has formed. The old snowpack base has varying depths, it is often lacking in wind-exposed zones. At intermediate altitudes the snow base is often moist, wet in some places, which can lead the entire snowpack to gliding over smooth ground.

Tendency

Due to snowfall avalanche dangers will increase.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger 
on Sunday 15 December 2024

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Gliding snow



2200m

Avalanche danger is low, isolated small-sized glide-snow avalanches

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger is low. In isolated cases on very steep slopes, small-sized glide-snow avalanches can trigger on smooth ground, below 2200m small glide-snow avalanches can release. Zones on slopes beneath glide cracks should be circumvented.

Snowpack

The snow cover is settling to an increasing degree. It is not yet sufficiently thick for activities in outlying terrain. Surface hoar has formed widespread on the surface. Over smooth ground, the entire snowpack can start to glide, e.g. on grass-covered slopes steeper than 35° the entire snowpack can glide over the ground.

Weather

On Friday night clouds will move in and towards morning light snowfall is possible in the Lungau region. Temperatures will drop. On Saturday, clouds will become dense, minor snowfall is anticipated. Westerly to northwesterly winds will intensify, gusts reaching 50 km/hr in exposed terrain during the afternoon. At 2000m, temperatures will descend to -6 degrees; at 2500m, to -10 degrees centigrade. On Saturday night in the Northern Alps 5-15 cm of fresh snow is expected, 5-10 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected in the Tauern, only little snowfall in the Lungau Nockberge.

Tendency

Danger expected to remain constant

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Avalanche danger in general low.

Danger assessment

The Avalanche danger is in general low, few danger spots are found in high, extremely steep shady slopes and gullies. There small slab avalanches are only possible with high additional loads.

Snowpack

The new snow from the weekend has settled without significant weak layers. In high shady slopes the snow base is formed of faceted snow which could be a weak layer in some areas. Surface hoar is possible.

Weather

Weather is changing during Friday night, southwesterly upper air flow are bringing clouds. In the morning the air flow changes over west and northwest with stormy wind in the summit region. In the evening snow in Dachstein and Ennstaler Alps is to expect. Temperatures on 2.000 m AMSL are decreasing from -2 to -6 degrees C.

Tendency

New snow and stormy northwesterly winds are increasing the avalanche danger scale.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Sunday 15 December 2024

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Persistent
weak layer



Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Avalanche danger in general low.

Danger assessment

The Avalanche danger is in general low, few danger spots are found in high, extremely steep shady slopes and gullies. There small slab avalanches are only possible with high additional loads.

Snowpack

South of the Alps the amount of loose snow is low without significant weak layers. In higher shady slopes the snow base is built of faceted snow.

Weather

Weather is changing during Friday night, southwesterly upper air flow are bringing clouds. Little snow during the night is possible in Gurktaler and Seetaler Alps. In the morning the air flow changes over west and northwest with accumulating clouds in the northern region south of Alpenhauptkamm clear skies are possible. Vivid winds from northwest are to expect. Temperatures on 2.000 m AMSL are decreasing from -2 to -4 degrees C.

Tendency

New snow and stormy northwestern winds lead to rising avalanche danger level in Niedere Tauern on Sunday. South of that the avalanche danger scale will not significantly change due to the lack of new snow.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 15 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

Low avalanche danger, isolated small glide-snow avalanches.

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger is low. Small-area wide, fresh snowdrift accumulations at high altitudes require caution. Below the treeline there is no striking avalanche problem evident. Particularly on very steep sunny slopes, isolated small glide-snow avalanches are possible. On slopes with glide cracks, caution is imperative.

Snowpack

On nights with clear skies, the snowpack surface metamorphosed expansively on shady slopes. On sunny slopes the snowpack surface was moistened on Friday, overnight it will form a thin melt-freeze crust. Southerly winds will generate fresh, mostly small drifted masses in higher-altitude pass and ridgeline areas. Due to intensifying westerly winds on Saturday, more trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations will be generated on Saturday. Depending on wind impact, the snow is distributed very irregularly, ridges often windblown, gullies and bowls often filled to the brim with snow.

Weather

A change in weather. Right from the start, heavily overcast, hardly any sunshine, clouds will lie above summit level in the morning, thus, diffuse light conditions. In the afternoon, all summits will become shrouded in clouds, a few snowflakes will fall. Temperatures will drop. At 2000m: -4 degrees. Winds shifting to W/NW and intensifying.

Tendency

Due to fresh snowfall and strong northerly winds, avalanche danger levels will increase on Sunday. Due to fresh snowfall and strong northerly winds, avalanche danger levels will increase on Sunday.