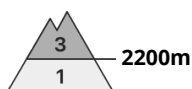


Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Persistent
weak layer



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.6: cold, loose snow and wind

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 3 - Considerable



Treeline



Wind slab



Treeline



Persistent
weak layer



2000m

Many new danger zones generated by snowfall and wind

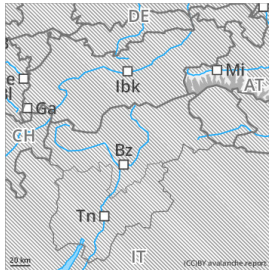
Danger assessment

Avalanche danger above the treeline is considerable. 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.. Avalanches can reach medium size. 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

The forecast snowfall will be deposited on south-facing slopes atop a slightly melt-freeze encrusted surface, on shady slopes atop a softened surface. In the western and high-altitude regions the snowfall will be heavier. Westerly winds will accompany it. Particularly in summit and pass areas, large-sized snowdrifts will accumulate which will be deposited on top of soft layers. Inside the old snowpack are melt-freeze crusts which become less marked with ascending altitude. In some places a trigger-sensitive layer of faceted crystals has formed near the crusts, particularly on north-facing slopes at higher altitudes. The snowpack base at low altitudes is often moist, sometimes wet, which tends to further the gliding movement of the entire snowpack over smooth ground.

Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Wind slab



Treeline

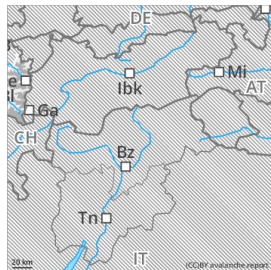


Persistent weak layer



2400m

Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Treeline

Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

Persistent
weak layer

2400m

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 layer 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.

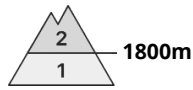
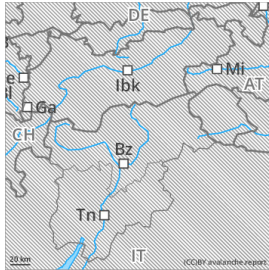
Weather

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: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 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.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Treeline

Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →

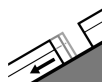
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline



Gliding snow



2200m

Avoid wind-loaded terrain

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger above the treeline is moderate. The main problem is freshly generated snowdrift accumulations which can trigger a small, and in isolated cases also a medium-sized slab avalanche even by minimum additional loading. Danger zones for slab avalanches occur particularly in NW/N/SE facing slopes and in steep ridgeline terrain. Above 2400m an avalanche which is unleashed on the surface can fracture down to deeper layers inside the old snowpack. In very steep, unstructured terrain below 2200m, isolated naturally triggered glide-snow avalanches can unleash. Avoid all terrain below glide cracks.

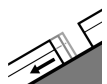
Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Wind slab



Treeline



Gliding snow



2000m

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, as well as in wind-loaded gullies and bowls, and tend to increase with ascending altitude. Releases are mostly small-sized. In isolated cases on very steep slopes where the ground is smooth, small glide-snow avalanches can unleash. Avoid zones below glide cracks.

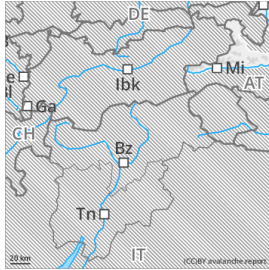
Snowpack

The forecast snowfall will be deposited on south-facing slopes atop a slightly melt-freeze encrusted surface, on shady slopes atop a softened surface. In the western and high-altitude regions the snowfall will be heavier. Westerly winds will accompany it. Particularly in summit and pass areas, large-sized snowdrifts will accumulate which will be deposited on top of soft layers. Inside the old snowpack are melt-freeze crusts which become less marked with ascending altitude. In some places a trigger-sensitive layer of faceted crystals has formed near the crusts, particularly on north-facing slopes at higher altitudes. The snowpack base at low altitudes is often moist, sometimes wet, which tends to further the gliding movement of the entire snowpack over smooth ground.

Tendency

The activity of wet avalanches will increase with the rising temperatures, snowdrifts will consolidate.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



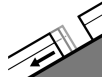
Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

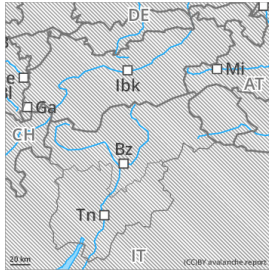


Gliding snow



2200m

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 December 2024

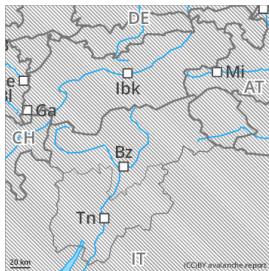


Wind slab



Treeline

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

Above tree line increasing avalanche danger due to fresh drift snow!

Danger assessment

The Avalanche danger above the tree line is moderate but increasing during day due to accumulating snowdrift. Below the tree line the avalanche danger scale stays low. Accumulating easterly snowdrifts in areas adjacent to ridgelines as well as on slopes are dangerous. Small additional load could trigger medium slab avalanches.

Snowpack

The snow base doesn't show significant weak layers. In high shady slopes faceted snow base is found. The surface is crusted on sunny slopes with partially surface hoar. Saturday night 10-30 cm new snow is called which will be drifted by stormy northwesterly winds to the eastern sector. Weak layers are expected within the snowdrift layer as well as to the base layer.

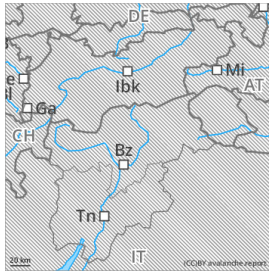
Weather

North of Alpenhauptkamm wintery weather is called for Sunday. Dense clouds in the mountains and snow in the valleys are to expect. In Totes Gebirge new snow up to 30 snow eastward and on the northern side of the Niedere Tauern 10 - 20 cm are to expect. Strong winds from west to northwest are increasing the area of Hochschwab and Mürzsteger Alps. Temperatures in 2.000 m AMSL are icy -9 to -10 degrees C, caution: wind chill effect!

Tendency

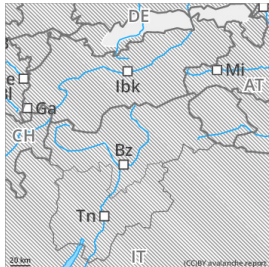
The snow will stop on Monday, wind slab problem will persist.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 December 2024

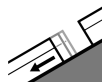
Danger Level 1 - Low



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.

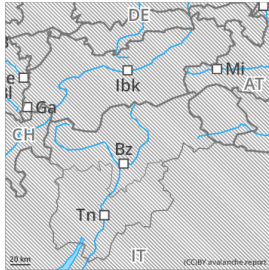
Snowpack

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



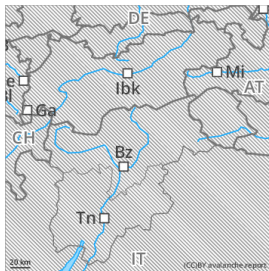
Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

Avalanche danger in generally low, but isolated danger zones occur due to freshly generated snowdrift accumulations.

Snowpack

The small amount of fresh fallen snow and fresh snowdrifts often blanket surface hoar or else faceted old snow and can be prone to triggering. The snow base is often quite shallow and in isolated cases is weakened by faceted layers on shady high-alpine slopes.

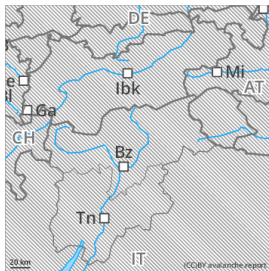
Weather

On Saturday night, up to 10 cm of fresh snowfall is anticipated. Strong - and in exposed terrain even storm-strength winds - from west to northwest will transport the fresh snow in irregular fashion. On Sunday, frequent snowfall is expected until after midday, visibility will be poor, improving only in the afternoon. Another 5-10 cm of fresh snow is expected. At 2000m: -8 degrees. Northwesterly winds will reach peaks of 50-80 km/hr.

Tendency

On Monday, no significant change is expected.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Monday 16 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

Avalanche danger low but danger spots due to fresh in snowdrift deposits above the tree line.

Danger assessment

The Avalanche danger is generally low but above the tree in Niedere Tauern few danger spots are located. Caution: fresh driftsnow deposits adjacent to ridgelines in the eastern sector. Accumulating easterly snowdrifts in areas adjacent to ridgelines. Small additional load could trigger small slab avalanches.

Snowpack

South of the Alps the snow base is small without significant weak layers. In high shady slopes some spores with faceted snow layers are located which provide little stability. On Sunday in Niedere Tauern and the eastern sector drift snow deposits will form which are not sufficient connected with the snow base.

Weather

North of Alpenhauptkamm winterly weather is called for Sunday. the northwesterly wind causes foehn-like loosening of the cloud cover and only little snow is to expect. Dense clouds in the mountains and snow in the valleys are to expect. Southern of the Niedere Tauern few centimeters of new snow are possible. South of Mur-Mürzfurche no new snow is called. Vivid strong winds from northwest. Temperatures in 2.000 m AMSL are winterly from -8 to -9 degrees C.

Tendency

The weather will calm down on Monday, avalanche danger stays low.