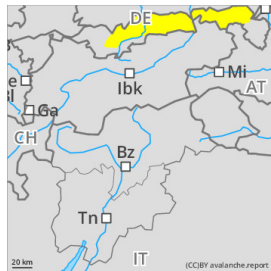


## Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Wet snow



### Snowdrifts occur especially in summit and pass areas

#### 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

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: Constant avalanche danger** →  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline



Wet snow



2000m

### Above the treeline, snowdrifts demand caution

#### Danger assessment

Above the treeline, fresh snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering. Danger zones occur mostly on shady slopes behind protruberances in the landscape, in gullies and bowls and on wind-loaded slopes. Below the treeline, avalanche danger is low.

#### Snowpack

The fresh snowfall is being deposited mostly on steep shady slopes atop metamorphosed old snowpack layers or atop surface hoar. On east-facing and sunny slopes, often atop encrusted surfaces. As a result of strong NW winds, widespread snowdrifts will accumulate. The fresh snow will be increasingly poorly bonded with the old snowpack surface with ascending altitude. In places in high-altitude shady spots and where the snow is shallow, weak faceted layers are evident in the snowpack. All in all, the snowpack is highly varied: ridges are often windblown, gullies and bowls are filled to the brim with snow.

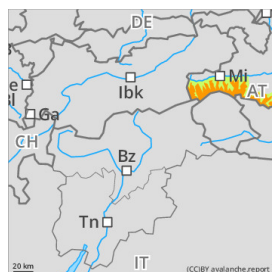
#### Weather

The mountains will be shrouded in fog in the early hours and during the morning. A small amount of fresh snow is possible. Starting at midday, increasingly sunny, the clouds and fog will recede. At 2000m: -8 degrees, plus strong-velocity NW winds.

#### Tendency

Monday will be sunny and noticeably milder. Avalanche danger levels will decrease. Slides and small glide-snow avalanches are possible.

## Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Treeline



Wind slab



Treeline

Persistent  
weak layer

2400m

## In high alpine regions avalanches can fracture in the old snowpack

### Danger assessment

Avalanche danger above the treeline is CONSIDERABLE. The major problem: freshly generated snowdrift accumulations which can trigger a medium-sized slab avalanche even by minimum additional loading. Danger zones occur both near to and far from ridgelines behind protruberances in the landscape and in steep gullies and bowls, particularly in NW/N/SE facing slopes. Above 2400m, avalanches fracturing from the surface layer can fracture deeper and grow to large size in isolated cases. In very steep and unstructured terrain below 2200m, isolated naturally triggered glide-snow avalanches are possible. Avoid terrain below glide cracks.

### Snowpack

Fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts, particularly on shady wind-protected slopes, are being deposited atop surface hoar. At high and high alpine altitudes, snowdrifted masses are being blanketed by southerly foehn winds as well as W/NW winds and are prone to triggering. Beneath these drifts the snow from September and November constitutes the snowpack base which above 2400m often is weakened by layers of faceted crystals. The snow is distributed highly irregularly, ridges are often utterly windblown, and the fresh fallen snow does not cover the ground everywhere sufficiently. On very steep grassy slopes the snowpack tends to glide over the smooth ground.

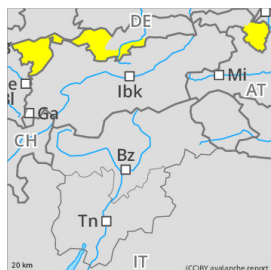
### Weather

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; at 3000m: -12 degrees. In outlying terrain at high altitudes, westerly to northwesterly winds will reach peaks of 60-80 km/hr.

## Tendency

On Monday, no significant change is expected. Fresh snowdrifts remain the biggest danger.

## Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Wind slab



Wet snow



Treeline



1800m

### Snowdrifts increase in frequency with ascending altitude

#### 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 3 - Considerable



Wind slab



Treeline



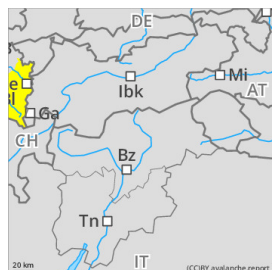
Wet snow



1500m



## Danger Level 2 - Moderate



**Tendency: Constant avalanche danger** →

on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wind slab



2000m



Wet snow



2000m

### Fresh snowdrifts are main danger

#### Danger assessment

At high altitudes, fresh snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering. Danger zones occur mostly on shady slopes behind protruberances in the landscape, in gullies and bowls and on wind-loaded slopes. Size and spread tend to increase with ascending altitude. Small-to-medium slab avalanches can be triggered even by the weight of one single skier. Above 2400m, isolated avalanches can trigger in the old snow and grow to medium size. Below the treeline, avalanche danger is low.

#### Snowpack

The fresh snowfall is being deposited mostly on steep shady slopes atop metamorphosed old snowpack layers or atop surface hoar. On east-facing and sunny slopes, often atop encrusted surfaces. As a result of strong NW winds, widespread snowdrifts will accumulate. The fresh snow will be increasingly poorly bonded with the old snowpack surface with ascending altitude. In places in high-altitude shady spots and where the snow is shallow, weak faceted layers are evident in the snowpack. All in all, the snowpack is highly varied: ridges are often windblown, gullies and bowls are filled to the brim with snow.

#### Weather

The mountains will be shrouded in fog in the early hours and during the morning. A small amount of fresh snow is possible. Starting at midday, increasingly sunny, the clouds and fog will recede. At 2000m: -8 degrees, plus strong-velocity NW winds.

#### Tendency

Monday will be sunny and noticeably milder. Avalanche danger levels will decrease, but slides and small glide-snow avalanches are possible.



## Danger Level 3 - Considerable



**Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger**  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



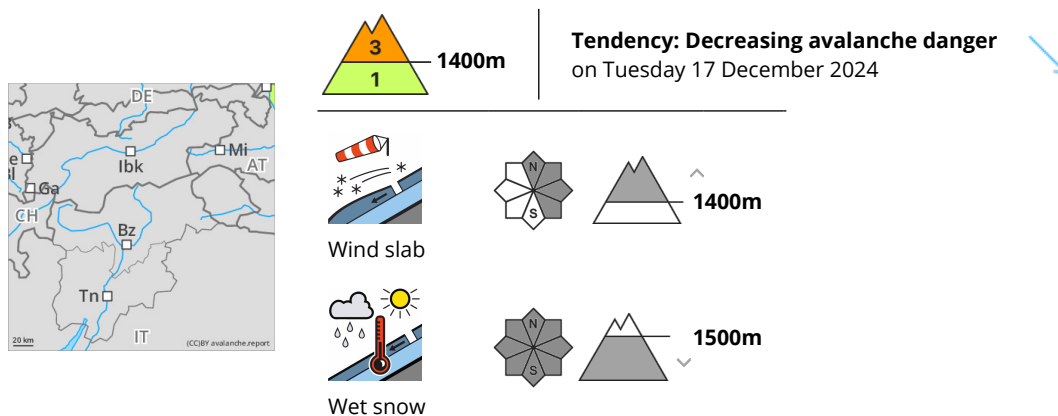
Wind slab



Wet snow



## Danger Level 3 - Considerable



## 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.

### Snowpack

Fresh snow and snowdrifts blanket an unfavourable snowbase of surface hoar and faceted layers particularly on shady, wind-protected slopes. At high and high-alpine altitudes there are also snowdrifts which were generated recently by southerly foehn winds as well as by W/NW winds which are prone to triggering. The old snowpack fundament on shady, high altitude slopes is weakened by layers of faceted crystals. The snow is distributed highly irregularly, ridges are often windblown, and the fresh snow does not cover the ground sufficiently. On very steep grassy slopes the snowpack can glide over the smooth ground.

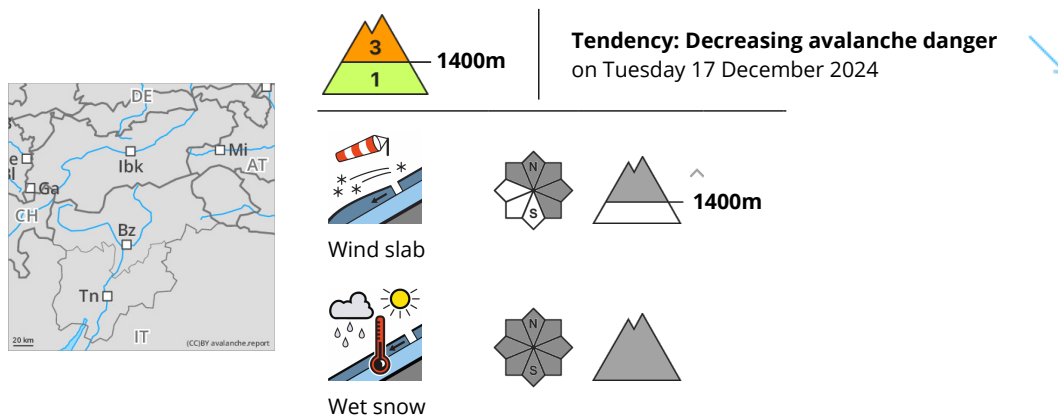
### Weather

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; at 3000m: -12 degrees. In outlying terrain at high altitudes, westerly to northwesterly winds will reach peaks of 60-80 km/hr.

### Tendency

On Monday, no significant change is expected. Moderate snowdrift problem above the treeline.

## Danger Level 3 - Considerable



### Considerable avalanche danger in high altitudes due to snowdrift! During the day the warning can cause spontaneous avalanches!

#### 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 winterly 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 2 - Moderate



**Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger**  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline



Wet snow



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

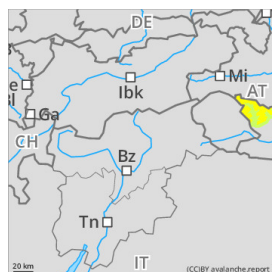
North of Alpenhauptkamm winterly weather is called for Sunday. Dense clouds in the mountains and snow in the valleys are to expect. In Totes Gebirge new snow up to 30 snow eastward and on the northern side of the

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 2 - Moderate



**Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger**  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wind slab



Persistent  
weak layer



### Fresh fallen snow and esp. freshly-generated snowdrifts are main danger widespread

#### Danger assessment

As a result of fresh snow and often storm-strength winds, trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations are being generated esp. in gullies and bowls, behind protruberances in the landscape as well as in general above 2200m. These masses can often be triggered by the weight of one single skier or else trigger naturally. Avalanches occasionally grow to medium size. In addition, avalanches can in some places trigger in the weak old snow, particularly in ridgeline zones and in transitions into gullies and bowls.

Frequency and size of the danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. .

Whumpf noises and cracks when treading upon the snowpack are alarm signals: they indicate immediate danger.

#### Snowpack

##### Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp.1: deep persistent weak layer

In the early morning hours, up to 10cm of fresh snowfall is anticipated, locally more.. The often stormy winds will transport the fresh snow, also some of the old snow. The freshly generated snowdrift accumulations will be deposited above 2200m atop a weak old snowpack surface.

The old snowpack surface is metamorphosed and faceted, the surface is loosely-packed.

At all altitudes, there is too little snow on the ground for this juncture of the season. Snow is distributed highly irregularly, even over small areas.

#### Weather

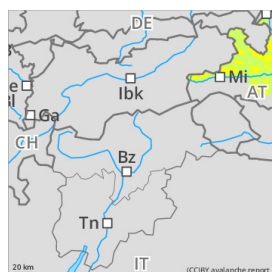
On the Main Tauern Ridge, dense clouds are accumulating from the north, thus shrouding the peaks in fog and provoking isolated snow showers. At summit altitudes, strong to storm-strength winds from the northwest will be blowing, gusts reaching peaks of 70 km/hr. At 2000m: -6 degrees; at 3000m: -14 degrees.

## Tendency

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



## Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Treeline

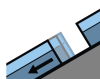
Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



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.

#### Snowpack

Fresh snow and snowdrifts blanket an unfavourable snowbase of surface hoar and faceted layers particularly on shady, wind-protected slopes. At high and high-alpine altitudes there are also snowdrifts which were generated recently by southerly foehn winds as well as by W/NW winds which are prone to triggering. The old snowpack fundament on shady, high altitude slopes is weakened by layers of faceted crystals. The snow is distributed highly irregularly, ridges are often windblown, and the fresh snow does not cover the ground sufficiently. On very steep grassy slopes the snowpack can glide over the smooth ground.

#### 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; at 3000m: -12 degrees. In outlying terrain at high altitudes, westerly to northwesterly winds will reach peaks of 60-80 km/hr.

#### Tendency

On Monday, no significant change is expected. Moderate snowdrift problem above the treeline.

## Danger Level 2 - Moderate



**Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger**  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wind slab



Wet snow



## Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Treeline

Tendency: **Constant avalanche danger** on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline



Wet snow



1500m

## Danger Level 1 - Low



**Tendency: Constant avalanche danger** →  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

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

### Danger assessment

Avalanche danger is low. Danger zones due to fresh snowdrifts occur above the treeline on N/SE facing slopes behind protruberances in the landscape and in steep gullies and bowls. These can be trigger a small slab avalanche in isolated cases even by minimum additional loading.

### 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. Northwesternly winds will reach peaks of 50-80 km/hr.

### Tendency

On Monday, no significant change is expected.

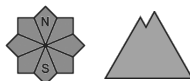
## Danger Level 1 - Low



**Tendency: Constant avalanche danger** →  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wet snow



### 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.

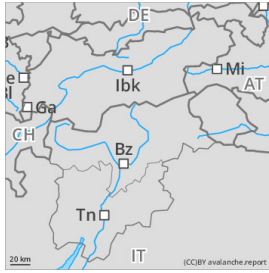
#### Weather

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.

## Danger Level 1 - Low



**Tendency: Constant avalanche danger** →  
on Tuesday 17 December 2024



Wet snow

