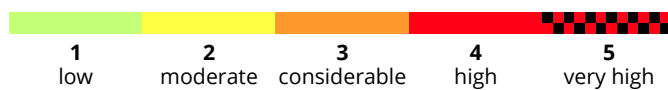
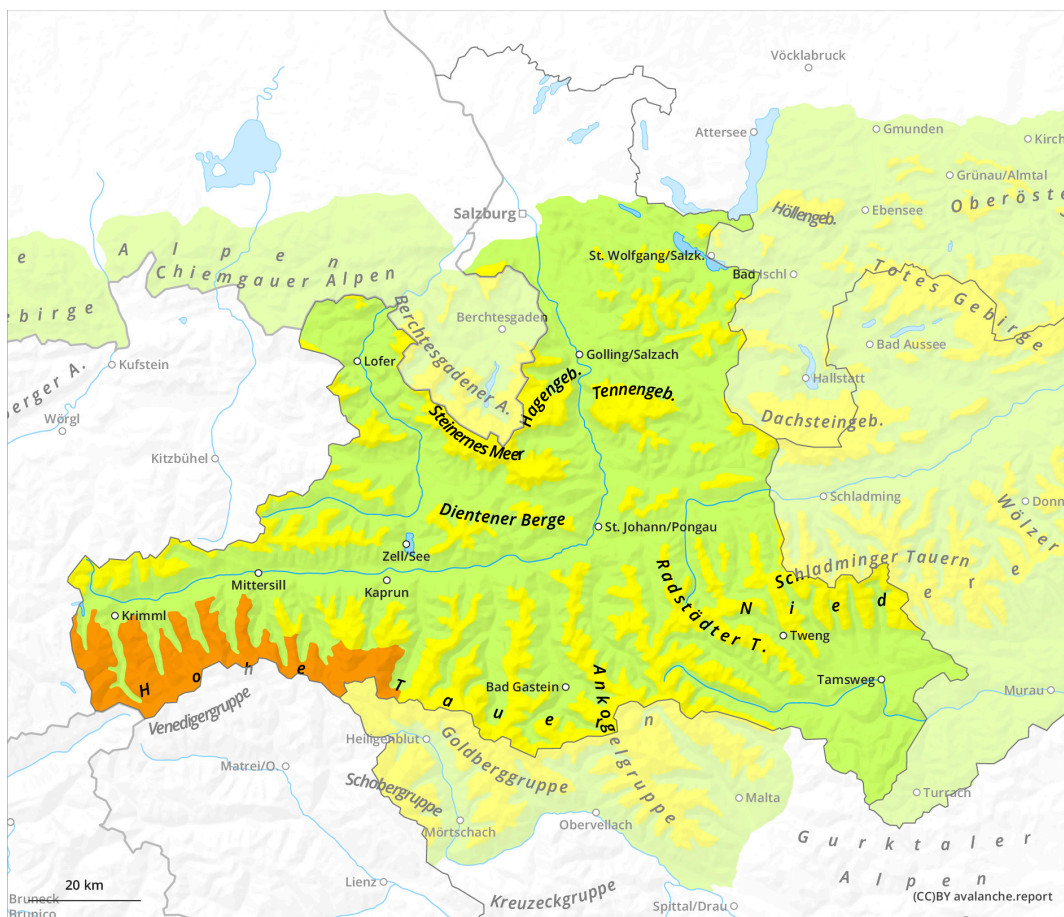


Avalanche bulletin Salzburg

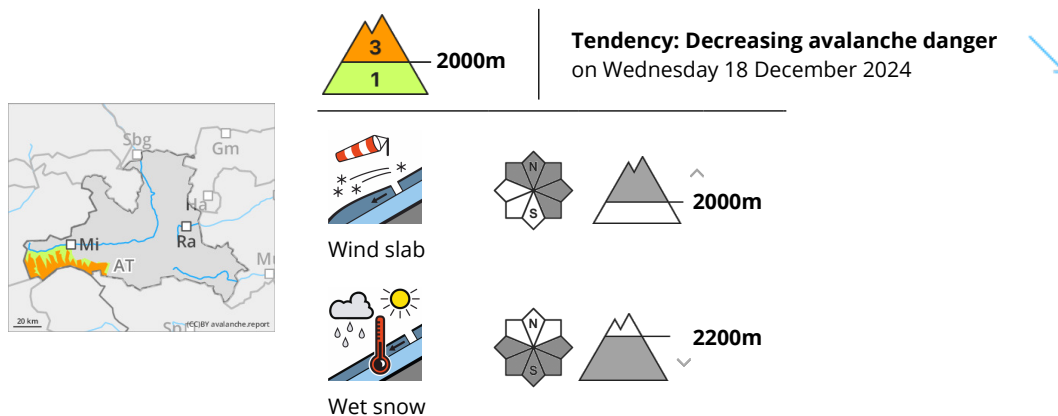
Tuesday 17 December 2024

Published 16 Dec 2024, 17:00:00
Valid from 16 Dec 2024, 17:00:00 until 17 Dec 2024, 17:00:00

Sunny, very mild



Danger Level 3 - Considerable



In high alpine regions avalanches can fracture in the old snowpack

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger increases with ascending altitude, above the treeline danger 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 sun-bathed steep terrain, naturally triggered small wet loose-snow avalanches can release, and small glide-snow avalanches are possible in steep grassy terrain.

Snowpack

Since Friday there has been 15-30 cm of fresh snow registered widespread, up to 40 cm over small areas on the Main Alpine Ridge of the Glockner and Venediger Massifs (with graupel). Stormy W/NW winds have transported the snow far-reachingly. Fresh snow and drifts cover surface hoar in shady, wind-protected zones, also older drifts (generated by southerly foehn winds from last week) at high altitudes. The snowpack base above 2400m is often weakened by layers of faceted crystals. Their proneness to triggering has diminished somewhat at high altitudes due to higher temperatures (there was brief rainfall up to 2200m). At low and intermediate altitudes the snowpack is intensely moistened due to solar radiation and higher temperatures, and is thus losing its firmness.

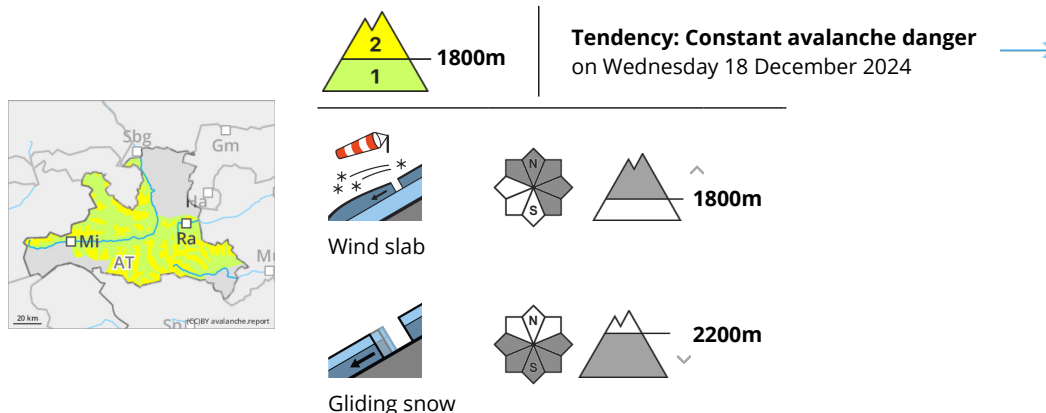
Weather

During the night, skies will be intermittently clear, no precipitation is expected. On Tuesday, sunshine will dominate. Winds in exposed terrain will reach peaks of 60 km/hr during the morning hours, otherwise winds will be moderate. Extremely mild. At 2000m: +2 degrees; at 3000m: -4 degrees.

Tendency

The snowdrifts' proneness to triggering is slowly decreasing. Otherwise, little change expected on Wednesday.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



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 near to and distant from ridgelines, 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, also small loose-snow avalanches.

Snowpack

Since the weekend there has been 10-15 cm of fresh snow registered widespread, up to 30 cm over small areas on the Main Tauern Ridge and in the Leogang Steinberge and on Hochkönig (with graupel). Stormy W/NW winds have transported the snow far-reachingly. Fresh snow and drifts cover surface hoar in shady, wind-protected zones, also older drifts (generated by southerly foehn winds from last week) at high altitudes. The snowpack base above 2400m is often weakened by layers of faceted crystals. On very steep grassy slopes the snowpack can often glide over smooth ground. Their proneness to triggering has diminished somewhat at high altitudes due to higher temperatures (there was brief rainfall up to 2200m). At low and intermediate altitudes the snowpack is intensely moistened due to solar radiation and higher temperatures, and is thus losing its firmness.

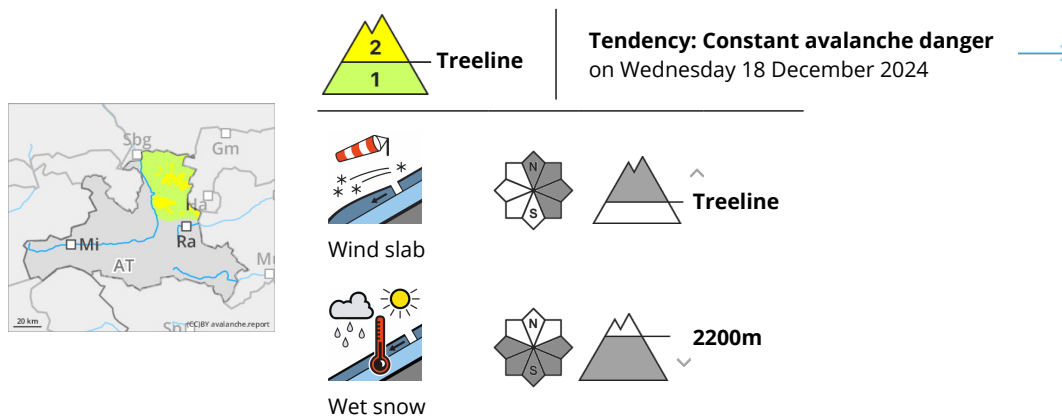
Weather

During the night, skies will be intermittently clear, no precipitation is expected. On Tuesday, sunshine will dominate. Winds in exposed terrain will reach peaks of 60 km/hr during the morning hours, otherwise winds will be moderate. Extremely mild. At 2000m: +2 degrees; at 3000m: -4 degrees.

Tendency

Little change expected on Wednesday.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Snowpack forfeiting its firmness on steep sunny slopes

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 near to and distant from ridgelines, behind protruberances in the landscape as well as in steep gullies and bowls, particularly on N/SE facing slopes. At low and intermediate altitudes, particularly on sunny slopes, naturally triggered small wet loose-snow avalanches can release, on very steep, unstructured terrain, e.g. grassy slopes, also naturally triggered glide-snow avalanches.

Snowpack

Fresh snow and snowdrifts (with graupel) blanket an unfavourable surface hoar, cover the snowdrifts above the treeline which were generated by W/NW stormy winds on the weekend. The snow is distributed highly irregularly, ridges are often windblown, and the fresh snow does not cover the ground sufficiently. At low and intermediate altitudes the rain impact on Monday morning will weaken the snow quality. On very steep grassy slopes the snowpack can glide over the smooth ground.

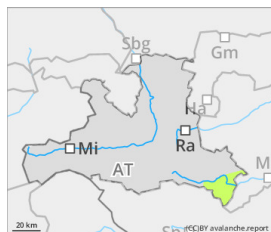
Weather

In the latter part of Sunday night, strong NW winds will bring slightly higher temperatures and snow showers (10-15 cm). On Monday, more showers will follow, and the snowfall level ascend to 1500m. Visibility will be poor due to strong W/NW winds. At 2000m at midday: +2 degrees.

Tendency

On Monday, the proneness to triggering of snowdrift accumulations will gradually decrease.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Wednesday 18 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/S facing slopes behind protruberances in the landscape and in steep gullies and bowls. These can be triggered by 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 Monday, strong (at high altitudes often storm-strength) NW winds, gusts reaching 70 km/hr, but largely without precipitation. Intermittent sunshine between the high-altitude clouds, good visibility. Temperatures will rise. At 2000m at midday: +2 degrees.

Tendency

On Tuesday, no significant change is expected.