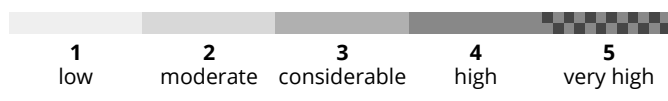


## Snowdrifts prone to triggering



## Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Treeline

**Tendency: Constant avalanche danger** →  
 on Saturday 21 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline



Persistent  
weak layer



2200m

## Slab avalanches in the snowdrifts can fracture down to deeper weak snowpack layers

### Danger assessment

Avalanche danger above the treeline is considerable, below that altitude danger is low. Snowdrift accumulations are the main problem. Slab avalanches of medium size can in some places be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one person. In some places they can fracture down to deeper weak layers in the old snow and therefore grow to large size. Danger zones can be difficult to recognize due to diffuse light conditions. They occur also distant from ridgelines and on slopes in all aspects. Caution required at the edges of forest zones. In transitions from shallow to deep snow, slab avalanches in the old snow can be triggered by one single person.

### Snowpack

The fresh fallen snow is being heftily transported. Inside the fresh snow, short-lived weak layers are forming near the surface. At high altitudes the fresh snow is falling atop a generally wind-compressed snowpack surface where the bonding is good. In wind-protected zones the old snowpack surface can be loosely packed and thus, constitute a weak layer. Deeper down inside the old snowpack fundament there are soft layers lodged between hard layers at high altitudes. At low and intermediate altitudes the old snowpack beneath the fresh fallen snow is melt-freeze encrusted. The snow base evidences no marked weak layers. However, the entire snowpack can start to glide over steep rock plates or grassy slopes.

### Weather

On Thursday evening precipitation will spread, the focal point will come at about midnight. The snowfall level will lie initially over 1000m, then gradually drop down to the valley floors. Widespread 20-35 cm of fresh snow is anticipated. On Friday, visibility in the mountains will often be reduced due to dense clouds and snow shower. In the afternoon, intermittent dry phases are expected, even a few bright intervals. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, strong-to-storm strength winds from the north. At

2000m: -9 degrees; at 3000m: -17 to -13 degrees.

## Tendency

Snowdrift accumulations remain prone to triggering.

## Danger Level 2 - Moderate



**Tendency: Constant avalanche danger** →  
on Saturday 21 December 2024



Wind slab



Treeline

## Freshly generated snowdrifts require attentiveness

### Danger assessment

Avalanche danger levels above the treeline are moderate, below that altitude danger is low. Snowdrifts are the major problem. Slab. avalanches of medium size can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, particularly near to ridgelines on N/E/SW facing slopes. Danger zones are difficult to recognize due to diffuse light conditions.

### Snowpack

The fresh snow is being transported far-reachingly. Inside the fresh snow, short-lived weak layers are forming near the surface. At high altitudes the fresh snow is falling atop a generally wind-compressed snowpack surface where the bonding is good. In wind-protected zones the old snowpack surface can be loosely packed and thus, constitute a weak layer. Deeper down inside the old snowpack fundament there are soft layers lodged between hard layers at high altitudes. At low and intermediate altitudes the old snowpack beneath the fresh fallen snow is melt-freeze encrusted. The snow base evidences no marked weak layers. However, the entire snowpack can start to glide over steep rock plates or grassy slopes.

### Weather

On Thursday evening precipitation will spread, the focal point will come at about midnight. The snowfall level will lie initially over 1000m, then gradually drop down to the valley floors. Widespread 20-35 cm of fresh snow is anticipated. On Friday, visibility in the mountains will often be reduced due to dense clouds and snow shower. In the afternoon, intermittent dry phases are expected, even a few bright intervals. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, strong-to-storm strength winds from the north. At 2000m: -9 degrees; at 3000m: -17 to -13 degrees.

### Tendency

Snowdrift accumulations will remain prone to triggering