Sunday 22 December 2024

Published 21 Dec 2024, 17:00:00
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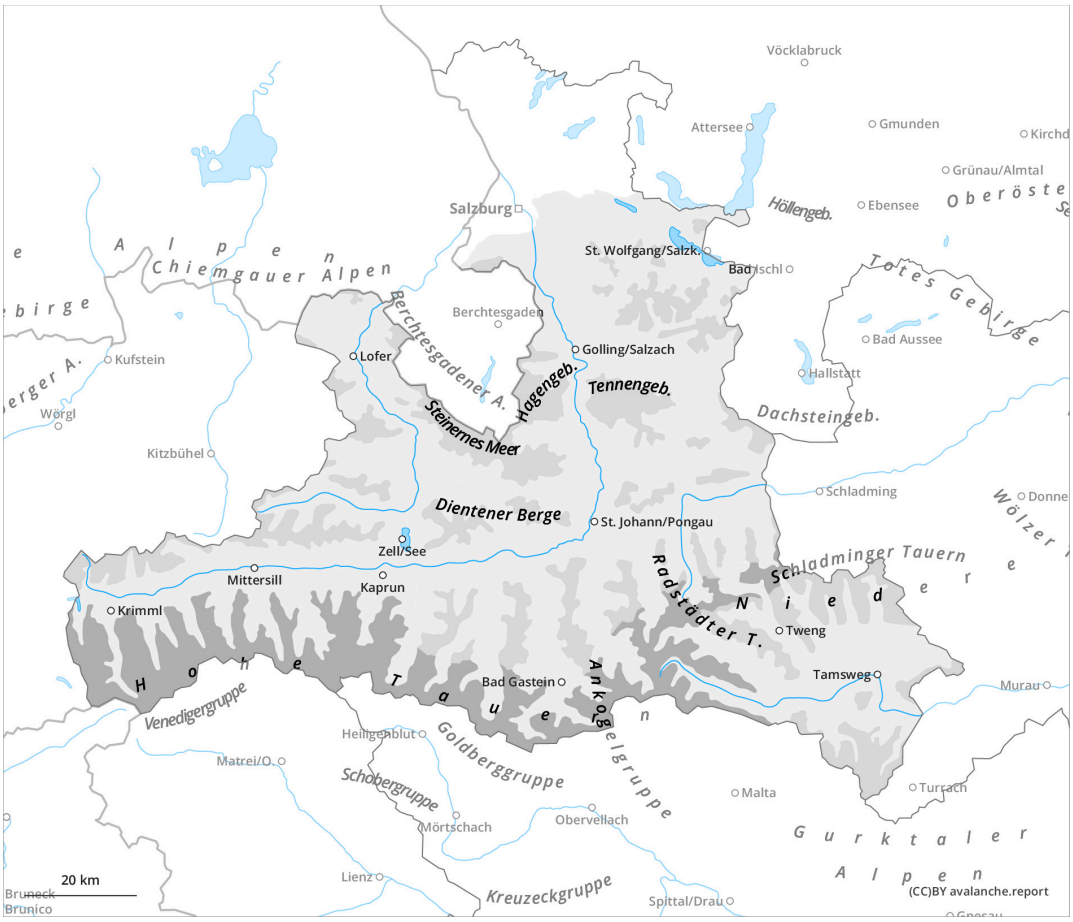
Snowdrifts are the main problem



1	2	3	4	5
low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

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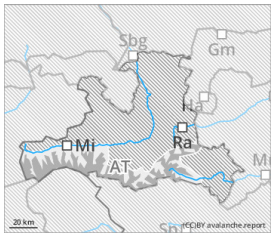
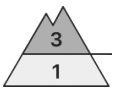
Danger Level 3 - Considerable





Treeline

Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Monday 23 December 2024

Wind slab

Treeline

Persistent
weak layer

2200m

Snowdrifts are the main problem. Slab avalanches in the snowdrifts can fracture in ground-level layers

Danger assessment

Avalanche danger above the treeline is considerable, below that altitude danger is low. Slab avalanches of medium size can in some places be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one person, especially in gullies and bowls and behind irregularities in the landscape on NW/N/SE facing slopes. In high alpine places the danger zones are possible in all aspects in gullies and bowls. In some places above 2200m they can fracture down to deeper weak layers in the old snow and thereby grow to large size. Settling noises and glide-cracks are indicators of imminent danger. Isolated naturally triggered avalanches are also possible at high altitudes. Snowdrift accumulations are difficult to recognize due to poor visibility. As a result of rain impact at intermediate altitudes, small naturally triggered wet-snow slides and glide-snow avalanches are possible.

Snowpack

The fresh fallen snow has been heftily transported. Inside the fresh snow and drifts, weak layers are forming near the surface (graupel and decomposed snow), bonding is generally good. Above 2000m the fresh snow and drifts have often been deposited atop faceted crystals near crusts, in some places surface hoar has been blanketed on shady, wind-protected slopes above the treeline. 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 entire snowpack can start to glide over steep rock plates or grassy slopes. The fresh fallen snow has been heftily transported. Inside the fresh snow, short-lived weak layers are forming near the surface. At low and intermediate altitudes the old snowpack is generally well consolidated. Above 2000m the fresh snow and drifts are often faceted near crusts. In some places on shady wind-protected slopes above the treeline, surface hoar has formed. The entire snowpack can glide over steep rock plates or grassy slopes. The fresh fallen snow has been 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 generatlly wind-compressed snowpack surface

where the bonding is good. IAbove 2000m the fresh snow and drifts have often been deposited atop faceted crystals near crusts, in some places surface hoar has been blanketed on shady, wind-protected slopes above the treeline. 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 entire snowpack can start to glide over steep rock plates or grassy slopes.

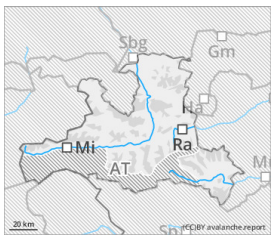
Weather

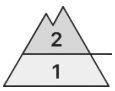
On Saturday morning, mostly light clouds and good visibility with intermittent sunshine. In the afternoon, dense clouds will move in, fog at higher altitudes. Winds will be light to moderate, mostly westerly. At 2000m: from -9 to 6 degrees; at 3000m: -11 degrees. On Saturday night cloud cover will become more dense, after midnight initial showers can set in, snowfall level at 1500m.

Tendency

On Sunday, fresh snowfall and winds will lead to increasing avalanche danger levels.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate





Treeline

Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Monday 23 December 2024

Wind slab

Treeline

Persistent
weak layer

2200m

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. 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 b e triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one person. In some places above 2200m they can fracture down to deeper weak layers in the old snow and thereby 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 NW/N/SE aspects. On the Main Alpine Ridge, danger. zones occur in all aspects. In some places, the snowdrifts have been blanketed over, making them difficult to recognize. 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 b e triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one person. In some places above 2200m they can fracture down to deeper weak layers in the old snow and thereby 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 NW/N/SE aspects. On the Main Alpine Ridge, danger. zones occur in all aspects. In some places, the snowdrifts have been blanketed over, making them difficult to recognize.

Snowpack

The fresh fallen snow has been heftily transported. Inside the fresh snow, short-lived weak layers are forming near the surface. At low and intermediate altitudes the old snowpack is generally well consolidated. Above 2000m the fresh snow and drifts are often faceted near crusts. In some places on shady wind-protected slopes above the treeline, surface hoar has formed. The entire snowpack can glide over steep rock plates or grassy slopes. The fresh fallen snow has been 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

generatlly wind-compressed snowpack surface where the bonding is good. IAbove 2000m the fresh snow and drifts have often been deposited atop faceted crystals near crusts, in some places surface hoar has been blanketed on shady, wind-protected slopes above the treeline. 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 entire snowpack can start to glide over steep rock plates or grassy slopes.

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