

Avalanche Forecast

Friday 21 12 2018

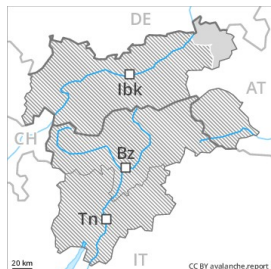
Published 20 12 2018, 17:00



Avalanche.report



Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Saturday 22 12 2018



Wind-drifted
snow



Treeline



Gliding snow



2200m

As the day progresses as a consequence of the sometimes strong southwesterly wind there will be an increase in the danger of dry avalanches.

In the afternoon as a consequence of the sometimes strong southwesterly wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. Avalanche prone wind slabs will form. This applies in all aspects especially above approximately 2200 m. The dry avalanches can be released easily and reach medium size in some cases. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Also places where surface hoar has been covered with snow are critical, in particular in shady places that are protected from the wind. As a consequence of the rain, the likelihood of gliding avalanches and moist snow slides being released will increase below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp 6: cold, loose snow and wind

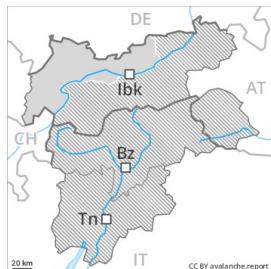
dp 2: gliding snow

The fresh snow and wind slabs will be deposited on soft layers above approximately 2200 m. These are prone to triggering. In the afternoon the wind slabs will increase in size appreciably. In some places fresh snow and wind slabs are lying on surface hoar. No distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack.

Tendency

Further increase in avalanche danger.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



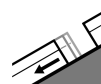
Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Saturday 22 12 2018



Wind-drifted
snow



Treeline



Gliding snow



2200m

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind there will be an increase in the danger of dry avalanches.

In the afternoon as a consequence of the storm force southwesterly wind there will be an appreciable increase in the avalanche danger. Avalanche prone wind slabs will form. This applies in all aspects especially above approximately 2200 m. On steep slopes the dry avalanches can be released easily and reach medium size in some cases. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Also places where surface hoar has been covered with snow are critical, in particular in shady places that are protected from the wind. As a consequence of the rain, the likelihood of gliding avalanches and moist snow slides being released will increase below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp 6: cold, loose snow and wind

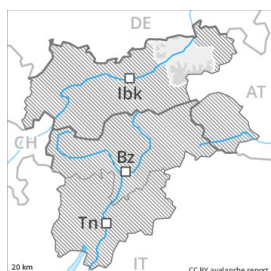
dp 2: gliding snow

10 to 30 cm of snow. will fall above approximately 2200 m, in particular along the border with Vorarlberg. The snowpack will be subject to considerable local variations. The fresh snow and wind slabs will be deposited on soft layers above approximately 2200 m. In the afternoon the wind slabs will increase in size appreciably. The fresh wind slabs are in isolated cases quite large and prone to triggering. In some places fresh snow and wind slabs are lying on surface hoar. No distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack.

Tendency

Further increase in avalanche danger as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Saturday 22 12 2018



Wind-drifted
snow



Treeline

Wind slabs represent the main danger.

As a consequence of a strong wind from southwesterly directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form as the day progresses in all aspects. Places where surface hoar has been covered with snow are especially unfavourable. Mostly avalanches are only small but can be released by a single winter sport participant. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. They are barely recognisable because of the poor visibility. As a consequence of warming, the likelihood of moist snow slides being released will increase a little below the tree line. In the regions with a lot of snow gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

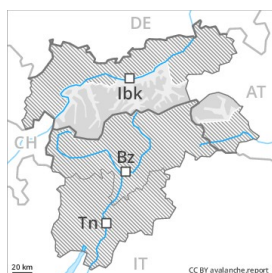
dp 6: cold, loose snow and wind

The snowpack will be subject to considerable local variations. Soft weak layers exist in the top section of the snowpack. The fresh wind slabs will be deposited on surface hoar in particular on shady slopes. The wind slabs are mostly small but prone to triggering. No distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. At low altitude from a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying.

Tendency

Increase in avalanche danger as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
 on Saturday 22 12 2018



Wind-drifted
 snow



Treeline



Persistent
 weak layer



2800m
 1300m

Fresh wind slabs require caution. Weakly bonded old snow requires caution.

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong wind from southwesterly directions, avalanche prone wind slabs will form as the day progresses in all aspects. The fresh wind slabs can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase at high altitude and in the high Alpine regions. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable because of the poor visibility. Weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack can be released in some places by winter sport participants on steep west, north and east facing slopes, in particular between approximately 2200 and 2800 m. This applies especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Defensive route selection is recommended.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp 6: cold, loose snow and wind

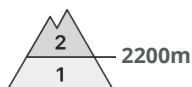
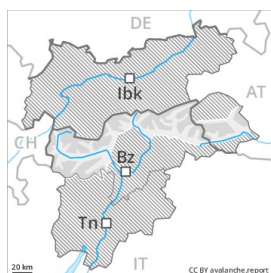
dp 1: deep persistent weak layer

Some snow will fall. The snowpack will be in some cases prone to triggering. The brittle wind slabs can be released easily. or in isolated cases naturally, in all aspects above the tree line. Shady slopes where surface hoar has been covered with snow are especially unfavourable. Faceted weak layers exist in the old snowpack on steep west, north and east facing slopes, in particular above approximately 2200 m and below approximately 2800 m. Isolated whumpfung sounds serve as an alarm indicating the danger. As a consequence of warming, the likelihood of moist loose snow avalanches being released will increase below the tree line.

Tendency

Further increase in danger of dry avalanches as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
 on Saturday 22 12 2018



Wind-drifted
 snow



Persistent
 weak layer



The backcountry touring conditions are to some extent unfavourable.

The sometimes avalanche-prone wind slabs of last week are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in steep terrain. These are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and generally in the high Alpine regions. Dry avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow also on rather lightly snow-covered east, north and west facing slopes. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and are barely recognisable because of the poor visibility. Backcountry touring calls for meticulous route selection.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

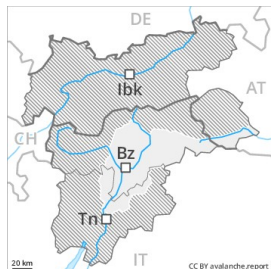
dp 6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp 1: deep persistent weak layer

The snowpack will be subject to considerable local variations. Isolated avalanche prone weak layers exist in the old snowpack especially above approximately 2400 m. At low and intermediate altitudes thus far only a little snow is lying.



Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Saturday 22 12 2018



Wind-drifted
snow



Only a little snow is lying.

Caution is to be exercised in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and on wind-loaded slopes. The avalanche prone locations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls. There is a danger of falling on the hard snow surface.

Snowpack

The snowpack will be subject to considerable local variations. In all altitude zones from a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying.