



Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
on Sunday 05 01 2020



Persistent
weak layer



Treeline



Gliding snow



2200m

Moderate, level 2. Wind slabs require caution, especially at elevated altitudes adjacent to ridgelines.

The older wind slabs are mostly easy to recognise but to be assessed with care and prudence. Even single persons can release avalanches in isolated cases, including medium-sized ones, in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas. The avalanche prone locations are to be found also at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack above approximately 2200 m. In steep terrain there is a danger of falling on the icy crust. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual mostly small gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for meticulous route selection, in particular on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m as well as on wind-loaded slopes. As a consequence of the sometimes strong northerly wind the prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses.

Snowpack

The wind slabs have formed in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These are bonding only slowly with the old snowpack in particular on steep shady slopes above the tree line. Faceted weak layers exist deep in the old snowpack at high altitude, especially on northwest, north and northeast facing slopes in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The snowpack will be moist at low and intermediate altitudes.

Tendency

As a consequence of the sometimes strong northerly wind the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase on Sunday. In addition a latent danger of gliding avalanches exists, in particular on steep grassy slopes below approximately 2200 m.