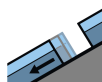


Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger
on Saturday 19 12 2020



Gliding snow



2600m



Wind-drifted
snow



2600m

Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

The danger of gliding avalanches will persist. On very steep grassy slopes and on sunny slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, even quite large ones. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally especially in the regions with a lot of snow. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

The wind slabs of last week must be evaluated with care and prudence in particular on northwest to north to northeast facing aspects above approximately 2600 m. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on near-ridge shady slopes.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.2: gliding snow

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

Towards its surface, the snowpack is fairly homogeneous and has a loosely bonded surface. As a consequence of mild temperatures the snowpack settled.

The old snowpack will be unfavourable in some places. Towards its base, the snowpack is faceted and weak. Weak layers near the ground can still be released in very isolated cases. The snowpack is largely stable and its surface has a crust that is barely capable of bearing a load, in particular on very steep sunny slopes, as well as at low and intermediate altitudes.

Tendency

Gradual decrease in avalanche danger.

Danger Level 2 - Moderate



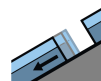
Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger
 on Saturday 19 12 2020



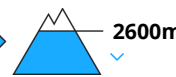
Wind-drifted
 snow



2600m



Gliding snow



2600m

Old wind slabs in the high Alpine regions. Individual gliding avalanches can also occur.

The older wind slabs remain in some cases prone to triggering in particular on northwest to north to northeast facing aspects above approximately 2600 m. They can be released by large loads at their margins in particular.

On very steep grassy slopes and on sunny slopes only isolated gliding avalanches are possible, even quite large ones. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach quite a large size. This applies on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes, as well as in extremely steep terrain. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

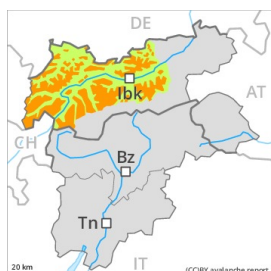
dp.2: gliding snow

Sunshine and high temperatures gave rise on Wednesday to moistening of the snowpack in particular on sunny slopes, especially on steep sunny slopes at low and intermediate altitudes. These weather effects will foster a substantial settling of the snowpack. The snowpack is fairly homogeneous and its surface has a melt-freeze crust. The various wind slabs have bonded quite well together. In very isolated cases weak layers exist deep in the old snowpack especially at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions.

Tendency

Gradual decrease in avalanche danger.

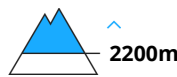
Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger
 on Saturday 19 12 2020 →



Persistent weak layer



Wind-drifted snow



Weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack necessitate caution and restraint.

Distinct weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack can be released by individual winter sport participants. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep shady slopes above approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes above approximately 3000 m, also in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach a dangerous size. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. The current avalanche situation calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

The older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular on northeast to north to northwest facing aspects above approximately 2600 m, especially adjacent to ridgelines.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.1: deep persistent weak layer

dp.7: snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding

Steep shady slopes: The old snowpack will be prone to triggering in some places. Towards its surface, the snowpack is fairly homogeneous and has a loosely bonded surface. Towards its base, the snowpack is faceted and weak. Various wind slab layers are lying on soft layers, in particular adjacent to ridgelines. Released avalanches and stability tests confirm the unfavourable bonding of the snowpack. Whumping sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack.

Very steep sunny slopes as well as low and intermediate altitudes: The snowpack is largely stable and its surface has a crust that is barely capable of bearing a load.

Tendency

Hardly any decrease in danger.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Saturday 19 12 2020



Wind-drifted
snow



2000m

A generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail.

The somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extremely steep terrain. They can be released, especially by large additional loads, in particular on northwest to north to northeast facing aspects at high altitude. They are mostly small.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

The various wind slabs have bonded quite well already with each other and the old snowpack. The old snowpack is weak in some cases, especially on steep shady slopes at high altitude. At low and intermediate altitudes a little snow is lying. The upper section of the snowpack is moist, in particular on very steep sunny slopes.

Tendency

A generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail.