

Danger Level 4 - High



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Saturday 16 01 2021



New snow



Persistent weak layer



Treeline

A dangerous avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area.

As a consequence of new snow and stormy weather more natural avalanches are to be expected. This applies on steep slopes in particular in all altitude zones. Avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and can reach as far as the valley bottom. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

As a consequence of the strong to storm force northwesterly wind, fresh snow drift accumulations formed during the last few days, also in areas close to the tree line, as well as below the tree line. These are in some cases quite large. Avalanches can in many places be released very easily and reach dangerously large size.

Naturally triggered avalanches and avalanches triggered by explosives confirm a dangerous avalanche situation. Great caution and restraint are important.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.5: snowfall after a long period of cold

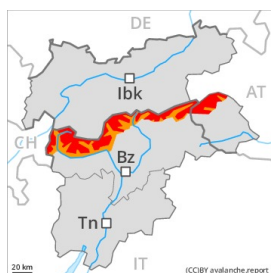
dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

Over a wide area 50 to 70 cm of snow, and up to 130 cm in some localities, has fallen since Wednesday in all altitude zones. The old snowpack is faceted; its surface is loosely bonded and consists of surface hoar and faceted crystals. The sometimes storm force wind has transported the fresh and old snow significantly. The brittle wind slabs will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack and stability tests confirm the unfavourable bonding of the snowpack. Faceted weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions.

Tendency

A dangerous avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area.

Danger Level 4 - High



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on Saturday 16 01 2021



New snow



Treeline



Wind-drifted
snow



Treeline

A dangerous avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area.

More natural avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects above the tree line, as well as in areas close to the tree line. Avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach a dangerous size. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

As a consequence of the strong northerly wind, fresh snow drift accumulations will form, also at low and intermediate altitudes. These are in some cases quite large. Avalanches can in many places be released very easily and reach dangerously large size.

Naturally triggered avalanches and avalanches triggered by explosives confirm a dangerous avalanche situation. Great caution and restraint are important.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.5: snowfall after a long period of cold

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

Over a wide area 40 to 60 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, has fallen in all altitude zones. The wind has transported the new snow significantly. In some places new snow and wind slabs are lying on surface hoar. The old snowpack is faceted and has faceted crystals on the surface. The brittle wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack.

Tendency

A dangerous avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area.

Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
 on Saturday 16 01 2021



Wind-drifted
 snow



Treeline



Wind-drifted
 snow



Treeline

A dangerous avalanche situation will prevail. New snow and wind slabs represent the main danger.

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on steep shady slopes, also in areas close to the tree line, as well as below the tree line. Avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can additionally be released on cut slopes.

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally as the day progresses. Avalanches can in many places be released very easily. In the regions neighbouring those that are subject to danger level 4 (high) the avalanche danger is higher.

Backcountry touring calls for great caution and restraint.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.5: snowfall after a long period of cold

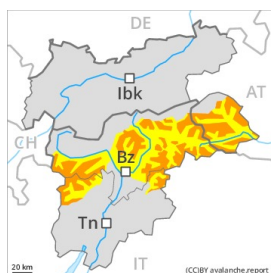
dp.8: surface hoar blanketed with snow

Over a wide area 10 to 30 cm of snow, and up to 50 cm in some localities, has fallen, in particular in the Western Kitzbühel Alps. The sometimes storm force wind has transported the new snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. In some places new snow and wind slabs are lying on a weakly bonded old snowpack, in particular on steep shady slopes above the tree line.

Tendency

The avalanche conditions are to some extent critical. New snow and wind slabs are to be assessed with care and prudence.

Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
 on Saturday 16 01 2021



Wind-drifted
 snow



Treeline



Persistent
 weak layer



Treeline

A dangerous avalanche situation will prevail. New snow and wind slabs represent the main danger.

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in all aspects, also in areas close to the tree line, as well as below the tree line. Avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach large size in isolated cases. Natural avalanches are possible.

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally as the day progresses. Avalanches can in many places be released very easily and reach large size in isolated cases. In the regions neighbouring those that are subject to danger level 4 (high) the avalanche danger is higher. In addition a latent danger of gliding avalanches exists.

Backcountry touring calls for great caution and restraint.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.5: snowfall after a long period of cold

dp.8: surface hoar blanketed with snow

Over a wide area 10 to 30 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, has fallen, in particular in the north and in the northwest. In the southeast a little new snow. The sometimes storm force wind has transported the new snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. The brittle wind slabs are lying on unfavourable layers in all aspects. Over a wide area new snow and wind slabs are lying on surface hoar. Precarious weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack.

Tendency

The avalanche conditions are to some extent precarious. New snow and wind slabs are to be assessed with care and prudence.