

## Danger Level 3 - Considerable



**Tendency: Constant avalanche danger** →  
 on Monday 18 01 2021



Wind-drifted  
 snow



Treeline



Persistent  
 weak layer



1600m

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 above approximately 1600 m. Slopes close to the tree line where surface hoar has been covered with snow are especially precarious. Avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach large size in isolated cases. Natural avalanches are possible in particular on wind-loaded slopes.

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. 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

The sometimes strong 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 various wind slab layers 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.

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A sometimes critical avalanche situation will prevail.

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can be released easily, or in isolated cases naturally, in all aspects. This applies above the tree line, as well as in areas close to the tree line. Mostly avalanches are medium-sized. As a consequence of the strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally as the day progresses. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Caution and restraint are important.

### Snowpack

**Danger patterns**

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp.8: surface hoar blanketed with snow

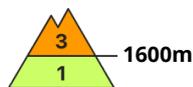
5 to 10 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, has fallen since Wednesday. The strong wind has transported the fresh and old snow significantly. The old snowpack consists of faceted crystals; its surface is loosely bonded and consists of surface hoar and faceted crystals. The brittle wind slabs are lying on unfavourable layers.

Isolated avalanche prone weak layers exist in the top section of the snowpack. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack have confirmed poor snowpack stability.

### Tendency

A critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions. Caution and restraint are recommended.

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Considerable, level 3. The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger.

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering in all aspects above approximately 1600 m.

Avalanches can in many places be released easily and reach medium size.

Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers also. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible.

Especially places where surface hoar has been covered with snow are treacherous. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

In addition an appreciable danger of gliding avalanches exists.

Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Meticulous route selection is important.

### Snowpack

**Danger patterns**

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp.8: surface hoar blanketed with snow

The strong wind has transported some snow. The brittle wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack.

Precarious weak layers exist in the top section of the snowpack. As a consequence of low temperatures the snowpack can not consolidate.

### Tendency

Hardly any decrease in avalanche danger.