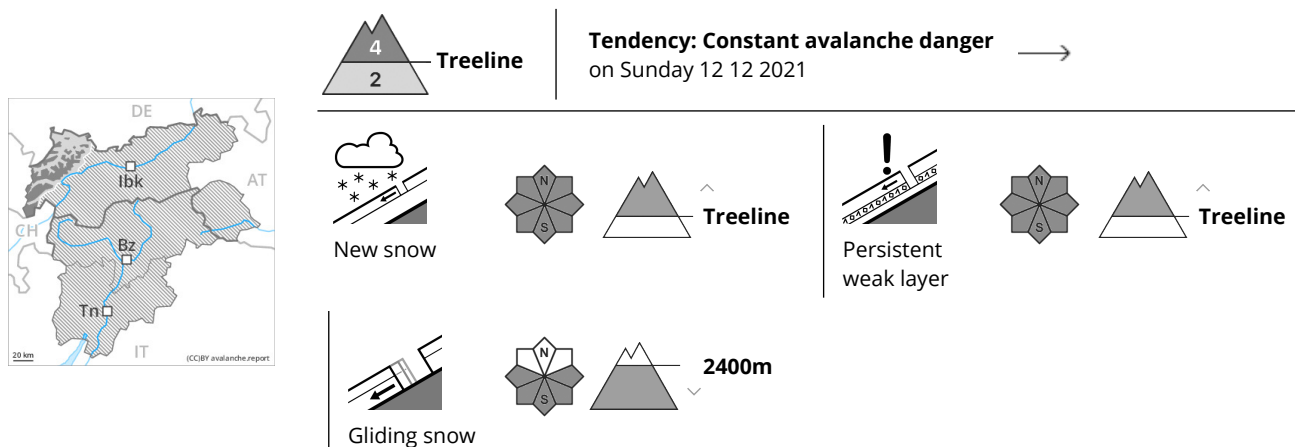




Danger Level 4 - High



Outside marked and open pistes a dangerous avalanche situation will prevail. Natural dry avalanches are possible. In the regions exposed to a lot of wind this applies.

Field observations and stability tests confirm the complex avalanche situation at elevated altitudes. The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. The avalanche prone locations are widespread. They are sometimes covered with new snow and are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. They are currently prevalent immediately adjacent to the pistes as well.

Avalanches can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Caution is to be exercised in all aspects in areas close to the tree line, as well as above the tree line.

Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of the sometimes strong wind, especially on wind-loaded slopes above the tree line. In some cases avalanches are large.

Gliding avalanches can also occur. This applies on steep grassy slopes below approximately 2400 m. Great caution and restraint are required.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp.5: snowfall after a long period of cold

Over a wide area 5 to 10 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, has fallen. The wind was strong to storm force over a wide area, in particular at elevated altitudes.

The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in all aspects at elevated altitudes. As a consequence of the strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size once again until Saturday.

Faceted weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack, in particular on shady slopes in areas close to the tree line, as well as above the tree line, also on steep sunny slopes at elevated altitudes.

Whumphing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the unfavourable bonding of the snowpack.



Tendency

As a consequence of low temperatures and the strong wind, the snowpack can not consolidate. The snowpack remains prone to triggering. The conditions are critical for winter sport activities outside marked and open pistes. As a consequence of the strong wind, the snow drift accumulations will increase in size.



Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Increasing avalanche danger
 on Sunday 12 12 2021



Wind-drifted
 snow



Treeline



Persistent
 weak layer



Treeline



Wind-drifted
 snow



Treeline

Fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. On wind-loaded slopes a treacherous avalanche situation will prevail.

Avalanches can be released, even by small loads in isolated cases and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised on wind-loaded slopes in areas close to the tree line, as well as on wind-loaded slopes above the tree line. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. At elevated altitudes the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and larger.

Individual natural avalanches are possible as the day progresses, but they will be mostly small. This applies in particular on wind-loaded slopes.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

The wind will be strong over a wide area, in particular at elevated altitudes. As a consequence of the strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The fresh and older wind slabs are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain.

Faceted weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack, in particular on shady slopes in areas close to the tree line, as well as above the tree line, also on steep sunny slopes at elevated altitudes.

Whumphing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the unfavourable bonding of the snowpack.

Tendency

As a consequence of low temperatures and the strong wind, the snowpack can not consolidate. The snowpack will become prone to triggering over a wide area. The conditions are precarious for winter sport activities outside marked and open pistes.



Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Treeline

Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →

on Sunday 12 12 2021



Wind-drifted snow



Treeline



Persistent weak layer



Treeline



Wind-drifted snow



Treeline

Outside marked and open pistes a precarious avalanche situation will prevail.

The fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Caution is to be exercised in all aspects in areas close to the tree line, as well as above the tree line. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow and are difficult to recognise. They are currently prevalent immediately adjacent to the pistes as well. Isolated natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of the strong wind, in particular at elevated altitudes on wind-loaded slopes.

Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow, especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate poor snowpack stability.

In the regions with a lot of snow more gliding avalanches are possible.

Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint are required.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp.5: snowfall after a long period of cold

Some snow has fallen over a wide area. The fresh snow of the last few days and the wind slabs formed by the strong wind are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in all aspects. The various wind slabs have bonded poorly with each other and the old snowpack. As a consequence of the strong to storm force northerly wind, the snow drift accumulations will increase in size at the weekend.

Faceted weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack, in particular on shady slopes above the tree line, as well as on sunny slopes at elevated altitudes.

Field observations and snow profiles confirm the complex avalanche situation.

Tendency



The snowpack remains prone to triggering. As a consequence of the strong northerly wind, the snow drift accumulations will increase in size at the weekend. The conditions are precarious for winter sport activities outside marked and open pistes.



Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
 on Sunday 12 12 2021



Wind-drifted snow



Treeline



Wind-drifted snow



Treeline

Fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated critically.

The fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering in all aspects. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls, in particular in areas close to the tree line, as well as above the tree line. Such avalanche prone locations are widespread. They are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise.

Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.

Dry avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers. This applies in the south, especially on very steep shady slopes in areas close to the tree line, as well as above the tree line.

Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

Over a wide area 5 to 10 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, has fallen. The fresh wind slabs are lying on soft layers. As a consequence of the strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size once again. Isolated avalanche prone weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack on shady slopes. This applies in the south, in particular at elevated altitudes.

Tendency

The wind slabs remain for the foreseeable future prone to triggering.