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Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →

on Friday 24 12 2021



Wind-drifted snow



2200m



Persistent weak layer



2200m

Wind slabs above approximately 2200 m.

As a consequence of a moderate to strong wind from northerly directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed above approximately 2200 m. These are mostly easy to recognise and can be released in isolated cases at their margins. In particular transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack are unfavourable. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain and in shady places that are protected from the wind.

Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the old snowpack by small loads, in particular on very steep slopes. In very isolated cases avalanches can also reach large size. Isolated whumpung sounds can indicate the danger. Very steep, little used shady slopes are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

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

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 in high Alpine regions. In areas where the snow cover is rather shallow the likelihood of avalanches is higher.

In the vicinity of peaks the wind was moderate to strong at times. The fresh wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack in particular on steep shady slopes.

As a consequence of rising temperatures a crust formed on the surface during the last few days, especially on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2600 m. Snow depths vary greatly above the tree line, depending on the influence of the wind. On steep sunny slopes less snow than usual is lying.

Below the tree line, shady places that are protected from the wind: The snowpack is faceted; its surface is loosely bonded and consists of surface hoar.

Tendency

As a consequence of rising temperatures and the moderate to strong northwesterly wind, fresh snow drift accumulations will form on Friday.