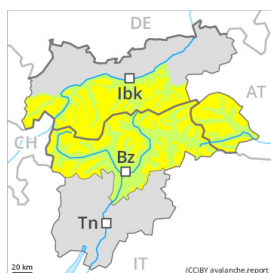


Danger Level 2 - Moderate

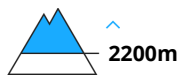


Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →

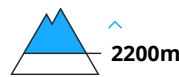
on Saturday 25 12 2021



Persistent weak layer



Wind-drifted snow



Weakly bonded old snow requires caution. Wind slabs above approximately 2200 m.

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow by small loads, in particular on very steep shady slopes above approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes in high Alpine regions. In very isolated cases avalanches can also reach large size. Whumphing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. In particular areas where the snow cover is rather shallow are unfavourable. Very steep, little used slopes are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

As a consequence of a moderate to strong wind from northwesterly directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last few days above approximately 2200 m. These are mostly easy to recognise but 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.

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. Snow profiles and stability tests confirm that the stability of the snowpack varies greatly within a small area in these altitude zones.

The fresh wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack in particular on steep shady slopes.

As a consequence of solar radiation a crust formed on the surface, especially on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2800 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.

Some snow will fall in some localities.

Tendency

A generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail. On little-used, rather lightly snow-covered slopes the situation is a little more dangerous.