

Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day after a long period of poor weather.

Winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. This applies in particular on steep slopes above the tree line as well as in areas close to the tree line. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. Also on very steep slopes avalanches can be released in the various layers of new snow. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are currently prevalent immediately adjacent to the pistes as well. Natural avalanches and whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

In addition a considerable (level 3) danger of gliding avalanches exists. This applies on steep grassy slopes below approximately 2400 m. As a consequence of solar radiation more frequent dry loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even medium-sized ones. This applies on extremely steep slopes.

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

Snowpack

Danger patterns

(dp.4: cold following warm / warm following cold)

dp.2: gliding snow

Over a wide area 30 to 50 cm of snow, and up to 80 cm in some localities, has fallen. Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. This applies above approximately 2000 m. The large quantity of fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on soft layers.

Field observations confirm the existence of a weak snowack.



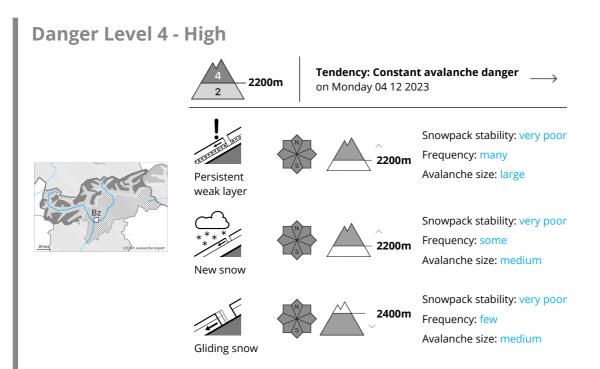


Tendency

Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area. The meteorological conditions will prevent a rapid change towards better conditions.







Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day after a long period of poor weather.

Winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. This applies in particular on steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. Also on very steep slopes avalanches can be released in the various layers of new snow. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are currently prevalent immediately adjacent to the pistes as well. Natural avalanches and whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

In addition a certain danger of gliding avalanches exists. This applies on steep grassy slopes below approximately 2400 m in the regions with a lot of snow. As a consequence of solar radiation more frequent dry loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even medium-sized ones. This applies on extremely steep slopes.

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

Snowpack

Danger patterns

(dp.4: cold following warm / warm following cold

ing cold) (dp.2: gliding snow

Up to high altitudes rain has fallen. Over a wide area 30 to 50 cm of snow, and up to 80 cm in some localities, has fallen above approximately 2200 m.

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. This applies above approximately 2200 m. The large quantity of fresh snow and the wind slabs





are lying on soft layers.

Field observations confirm the existence of a weak snowack.

Tendency

Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area. The meteorological conditions will prevent a rapid change towards better conditions.







New snow

At elevated altitudes a sometimes precarious avalanche situation will prevail.

Very large quantity of fresh snow as well as the sometimes large wind slabs formed during the snowfall can be released easily in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The prevalence of the avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The fresh wind slabs are covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can be triggered in the new snow and wind slab layers and reach quite a large size. In addition some small to medium-sized loose snow avalanches are to be expected. This applies on extremely steep sunny slopes.

2200m

Frequency: some

Avalanche size: medium

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind) (dp.3: rain)

Up to high altitudes rain has fallen. 30 to 50 cm of snow, and up to 80 cm in some localities, has fallen above approximately 2200 m.

High altitudes and the high Alpine regions: The old snowpack is largely stable and its surface has a crust, in particular on steep sunny slopes.

Intermediate altitudes: The old snowpack is wet.

Tendency

A critical avalanche situation will prevail. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day.

