

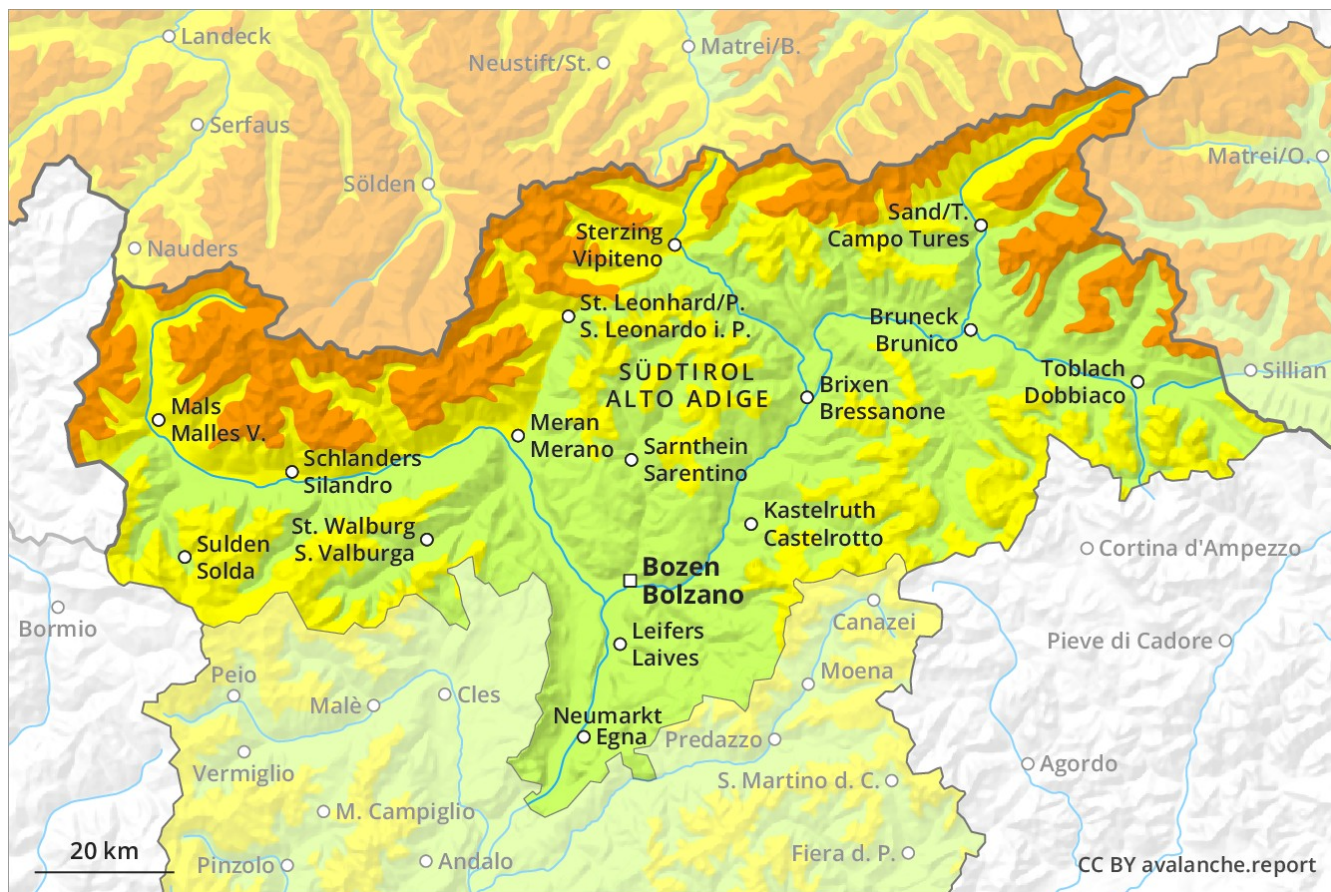
Avalanche Forecast

Tuesday 25 12 2018

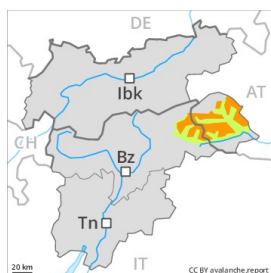
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Avalanche.report



Danger Level 3 - Considerable



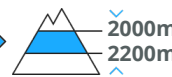
Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger
on Wednesday 26 12 2018



Wind-drifted
snow



Persistent
weak layer



Fresh wind slabs represent the main danger.

The extensive wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. These represent the main danger. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. In particular transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack are unfavourable, especially on very steep shady slopes and adjacent to ridgelines. Decrease in danger of moist and wet avalanches.

Snowpack

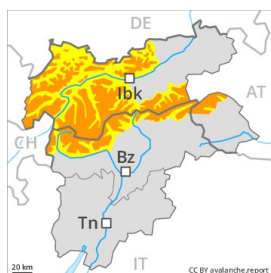
Danger patterns

dp 6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp 4: cold following warm / warm following cold

Over a wide area 10 to 20 cm of snow fell above approximately 2000 m. The wind was strong to storm force over a wide area. Over a wide area fresh snow and wind slabs are lying on soft layers, in particular above approximately 2200 m. The fresh wind slabs are in some cases quite large. They are prone to triggering. Faceted weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. Isolated whumpung sounds can indicate the danger.

Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Decreasing avalanche danger
 on Wednesday 26 12 2018



Wind-drifted
 snow



Treeline



Gliding snow



2400m

The conditions are precarious for winter sport activities outside marked and open pistes, especially above approximately 2200 m.

In the last two days in all aspects a large number of medium-sized and, in many cases, large avalanches occurred naturally, in particular avalanches with origins in high-altitude starting zones. Once the intensive precipitation has ended, the natural avalanche activity will appreciably decrease. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones, especially above approximately 2200 m. The sometimes large wind slabs of the last three days represent the main danger. These must be evaluated with care and prudence in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Dry avalanches can additionally be released in the old snowpack by a single winter sport participant, in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow above approximately 2200 m and on very steep slopes. Decrease in danger of moist and wet avalanches. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. This applies in particular on steep grassy slopes below approximately 2400 m. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Snowpack

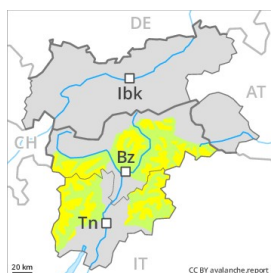
Danger patterns

dp 6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp 9: graupel blanketed with snow

Over a wide area 30 to 70 cm of snow, and up to 100 cm in some localities, fell above approximately 2000 m. The wind was strong to storm force. The fresh wind slabs are in many cases thick. Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last few days are bonding only slowly with the old snowpack in all aspects, in particular above approximately 2200 m. Avalanche prone weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack.

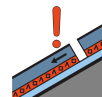
Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Wednesday 26 12 2018



Wind-drifted
snow



Persistent
weak layer



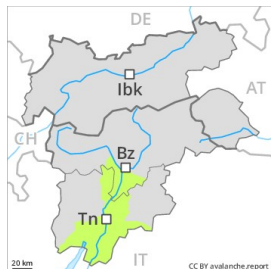
Only a little snow is lying at low and intermediate altitudes.

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong wind from northwesterly directions, wind slabs formed on Monday in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. In particular on wind-loaded slopes avalanches can be released easily and reach large size in isolated cases. In regions neighbouring those that are subject to danger level 3 (considerable) and at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater. The avalanche prone locations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Snowpack

Some snow has fallen in particular in the north. The snowpack will be subject to considerable local variations. In many cases fresh snow and wind slabs are lying on the soft surface of an old snowpack. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack.

Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Wednesday 26 12 2018



Wind-drifted
snow



Little snow has fallen.

The wind slabs represent the main danger. The wind slabs are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls as well as in the high Alpine regions. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare and are easy to recognise.

Snowpack

From a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying. The sometimes strong wind has transported only a little snow.