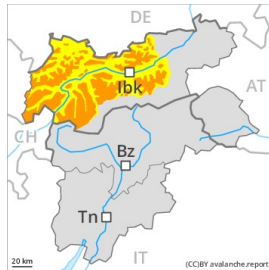




Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →

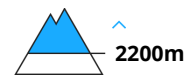
on Thursday 17 12 2020



Persistent weak layer



Wind-drifted snow



Weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack necessitate caution and restraint.

Distinct weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack can be released by individual winter sport participants. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep shady slopes above approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes above approximately 2600 m, also in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. In very isolated cases avalanches are large.

The fresh and older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence, in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m. These can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. In particular in the regions exposed to the foehn wind the wind slabs have increased in size once again. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in areas close to the tree line. The more recent wind slabs are lying on surface hoar in some places.

On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones, especially on very steep sunny slopes below approximately 2600 m.

The current avalanche situation calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.1: deep persistent weak layer

dp.8: surface hoar blanketed with snow

Towards its surface, the snowpack is fairly homogeneous and has a loosely bonded surface. In the last few days sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed in all aspects, in particular on near-ridge shady slopes. The wind slabs are lying on surface hoar in some places in areas close to the tree line.

The old snowpack will be prone to triggering in some places, in particular on steep shady slopes. Towards its base, the snowpack is faceted and weak. Released avalanches and stability tests confirm the unfavourable bonding of the snowpack. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack. Towards its surface, the snowpack is moist, in particular on very steep sunny slopes as well as at low and intermediate altitudes.

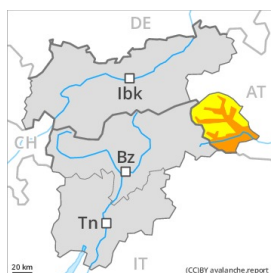
Tendency



Hardly any decrease in danger.

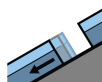


Danger Level 3 - Considerable



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →

on Thursday 17 12 2020



Gliding snow



Wind-drifted snow



Treeline

Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. Wind slabs require caution.

The danger of gliding avalanches will persist. On very steep grassy slopes and on sunny slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, even quite large ones. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally especially in the regions with a lot of snow. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

The wind slabs of last week must be evaluated with care and prudence in particular on west to north to east facing aspects. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on near-ridge shady slopes, caution is to be exercised also in areas close to the tree line. The more recent wind slabs are lying on surface hoar in some places.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.2: gliding snow

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

Towards its surface, the snowpack is fairly homogeneous and has a loosely bonded surface. In the last few days sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed in all aspects, in particular on near-ridge shady slopes. The wind slabs are lying on surface hoar in some places in areas close to the tree line.

The old snowpack will be unfavourable in some places. Towards its base, the snowpack is faceted and weak. Weak layers near the ground can still be released in very isolated cases.

Tendency

Hardly any decrease in danger.



Danger Level 2 - Moderate



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →

on Thursday 17 12 2020



Wind-drifted
snow



Treeline



Gliding snow



2600m

Wind slabs represent the main danger. Individual gliding avalanches can also occur.

The sometimes large wind slabs of last week must be evaluated with care and prudence in particular on west to north to east facing aspects above the tree line. They are in some cases deep and can be released by large loads in particular.

On very steep grassy slopes and on sunny slopes gliding avalanches are possible, even quite large ones. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally especially in the regions with a lot of snow. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size in isolated cases. This applies in case of releases originating from very steep starting zones at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions that have retained the snow thus far. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.2: gliding snow

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

The snowpack will be quite well bonded. More recent wind slabs are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In some cases the various wind slabs have bonded poorly together. This applies at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions. Towards its surface, the snowpack is soft and its surface consists of surface hoar. Faceted weak layers exist deep in the old snowpack especially at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions. Towards its base, the snowpack is moist. This applies especially at low and intermediate altitudes.

Tendency

The avalanche danger will persist. Individual gliding avalanches can also be released in the night.



Danger Level 1 - Low



Tendency: Constant avalanche danger →
on Thursday 17 12 2020



Wind-drifted
snow



Wind slabs require caution.

The somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. They can be released, especially by large additional loads, in particular on northwest to north to northeast facing aspects at high altitude. They are mostly small.

Snowpack

Danger patterns

dp.6: cold, loose snow and wind

dp.8: surface hoar blanketed with snow

In the last few days sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed at high altitude. The old snowpack is weak in some cases, especially on steep shady slopes at high altitude. At low and intermediate altitudes a little snow is lying. The snowpack is soft and its surface consists of surface hoar, in particular in areas close to the tree line. The fresh wind slabs are lying on surface hoar in some places.

Tendency

The avalanche danger will persist.