



Forecast Area

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Gudauri



Fresh wind slabs and a weak layer continue to bring heightened avalanche hazard. We turn the hazard levels back to 3/3/3, but remember that this rating still means conservative choices and careful route assessment.

Forecast issued at: **21-Feb-2023 19:00**

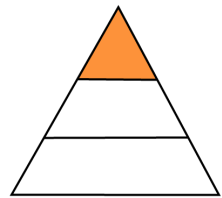
Forecast valid until: **23-Feb-2023 19:00**

This is a trial avalanche forecasting service run by non-professional volunteers from Gudauri, supported remotely by experienced avalanche forecasters. The information presented here may sometimes be incomplete or inaccurate - do not only rely on this forecast in your safety decisions.

Forecaster: Peter S

High Alpine

> 2600m



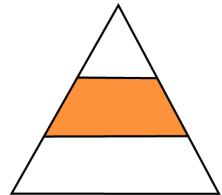
3

Considerable

Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding and conservative decision-making essential.

Alpine

2000m - 2600m



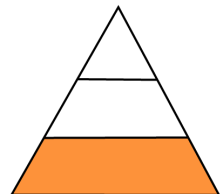
3

Considerable

Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding and conservative decision-making essential.

Sub Alpine

< 2000m



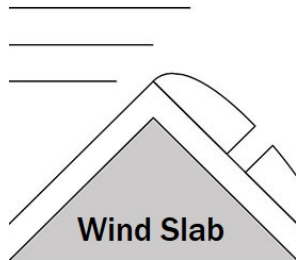
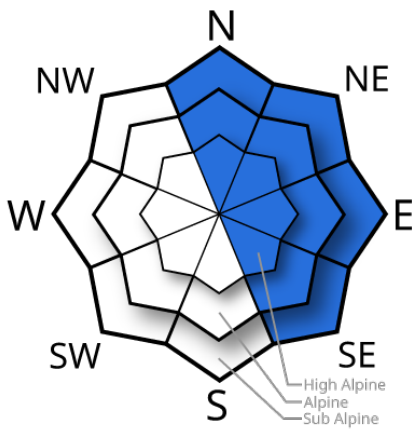
3

Considerable

Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding and conservative decision-making essential.

Problem 1 - Wind Slab

A cohesive layer of snow (a slab) formed by the wind drifted snow.

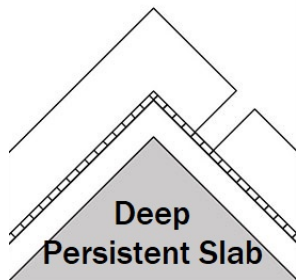
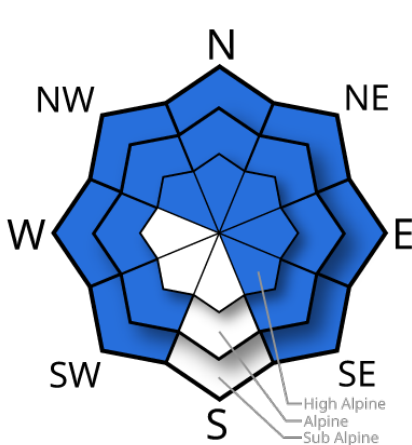


Reactive windslabs developed during recent SW - W winds around ridgelines and possibly further downslope. These windslabs will need another 1-2 days to stabilize, but we expected fresh loading over Wednesday and Thursday.

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Possible	2	All day	No change

Problem 2 - Deep Slab

A weak layer, usually at or near the base of the snowpack, that resists bonding to an overlying slab over an extended time period.



In areas where snow existed in January, there is a layer of very weak snow at the base of the snowpack. If it fails, the entire snowpack will slide and the resulting avalanche could be large. Even a whumph (collapse) on a flat area could travel through the snow and set off avalanches above you. This layer exists even at lower elevations. In some areas in the high alpine and in the North of the forecast area this layer is less developed or absent.

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Possible	3	All day	No change

Recent/Relevant Observations

Several medium-large sized natural avalanches on E-NE-SE aspects in Khada gorge released during the last storm event. While there are no detailed observations, some of these slides likely stepped down to the weak basal layer. Avalanche activity was also reported on east and north aspects of Miketi. "Whumphing" (collapse of weak layers) continued to be reported; whumphing was also reported from southern slopes on Bidara, which may be associated with a buried sun crust that may have developed facets. While do not consider this crust layer a problem yet, any whumphing (on any aspects) should be considered a sign of instability.

Changes in conditions since previous forecast

Over 40 cm of new snow accompanied by moderate to strong west winds, leading to fresh windslabs on SE-E-NE aspects and potential cross-loading on other aspects.

Weather Forecast

No more precipitation expected, but Wednesday and Thursday will again bring winds in the moderate to strong range from the SW and W.