



Forecast Area

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Gudauri



As strong W and SW winds on 22 and 23 of february added significantly to the wind slab problem, overall hazard level cannot be downgraded yet.

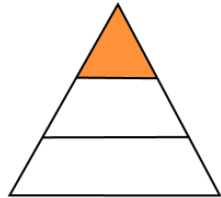
Forecast issued at: **23-Feb-2023 21:00**

Forecast valid until: **24-Feb-2023 21:00**

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: Petr Zherdev (Snowlab)

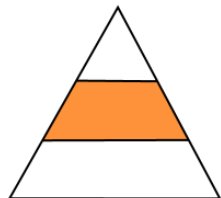
High Alpine
> 2600m



3 Considerable

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

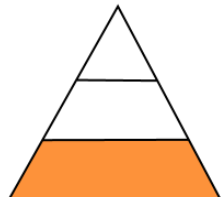
Alpine
2000m - 2600m



3 Considerable

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

Sub Alpine
< 2000m

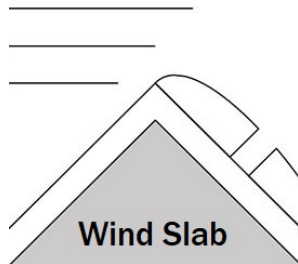
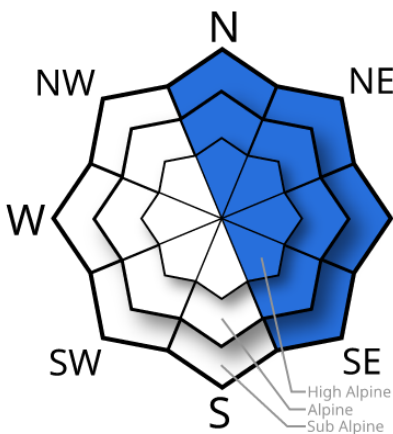


3 Considerable

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

Problem Number 1 - Wind Slab

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

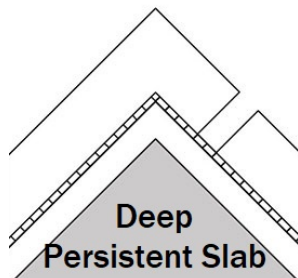
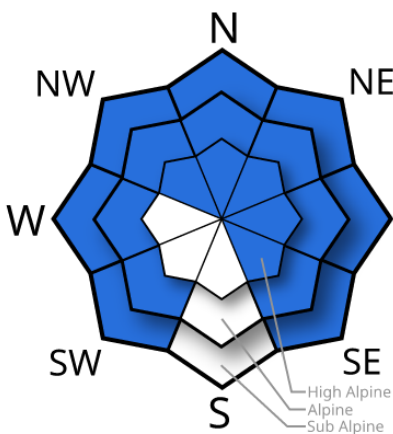


Reactive windslabs developed during recent SW - W winds around ridgelines and further downslope. These will need 1-2 days more to stabilize as the strong winds were constant since the last forecast.

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Possible	2	All day	Improving

Problem Number 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.

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

Recent/Relevant Observations

Strong W and SW winds over the past 2 days after the recent 40 cm snowfall created wind crust on windward aspects and deposited significant amount of snow on lee aspects creating widespread wind slabs.

A number of size 2 natural avalanches reported at SE, E and NE faces from 1600 to 2900m on 20th feb with some of them failing to the ground.

Wet and heavy snow was reported at Kvesheti area on 2023-02-23 with no avalanche activity.

Changes in conditions since previous forecast

Wind crust and general compaction of the snowpack due to strong west and southwest winds add to the existing deep persistent slab problem on NW, W, SW aspects by increasing the size of potential deep slab avalanches, creating a 'lower probability, higher consequence' scenario.

Weather Forecast

Winds subside with arrival of clear and cold (around -12C mid day) weather on 2023-02-24.

Later on 25 and 26 of february temperatures are forecasted to rise to around -8C mid day with some clouds.