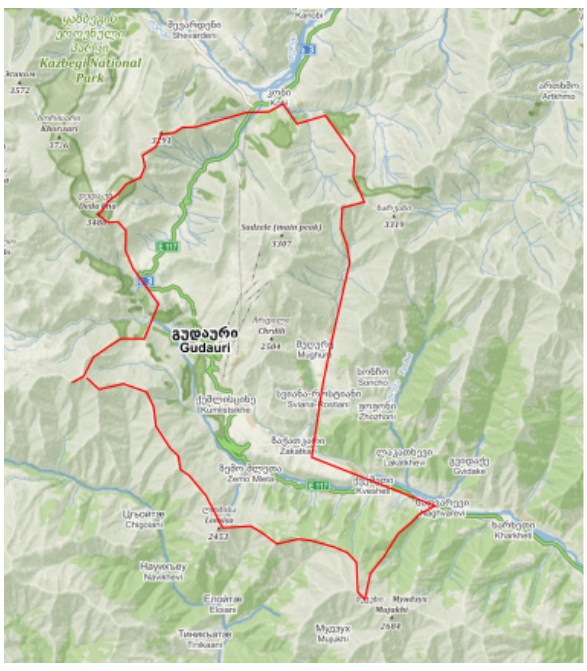


Forecast Area

Gudauri

While strong winds have stopped the upcoming temperature rise might bring additional hazards to the equation.

Forecast issued at: **24-Feb-2023 23:00**

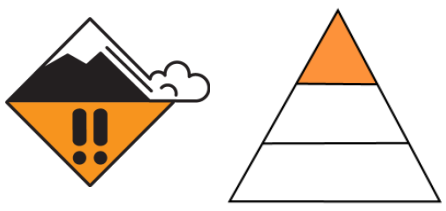
Forecast valid until: **26-Feb-2023 23:00**

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

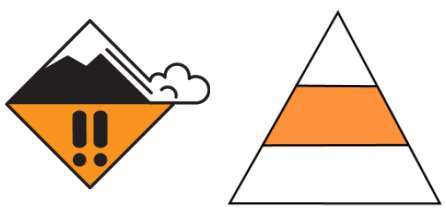


3 Considerable

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

Alpine

2000m - 2600m

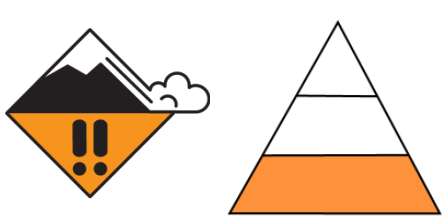


3 Considerable

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

Sub Alpine

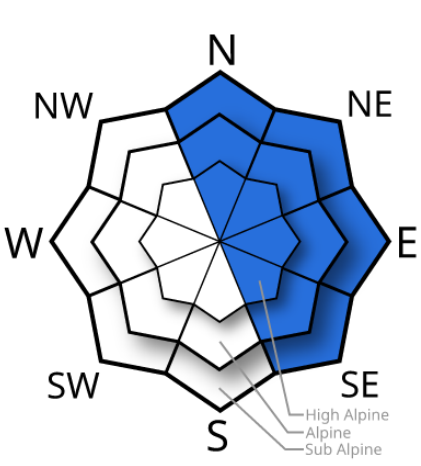
< 2000m

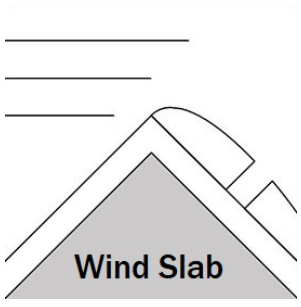


3 Considerable

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

Problem Number 1 - Wind Slab



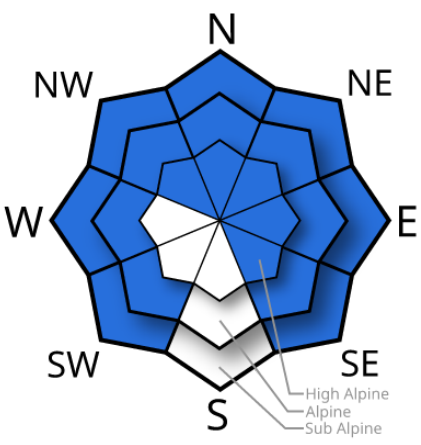


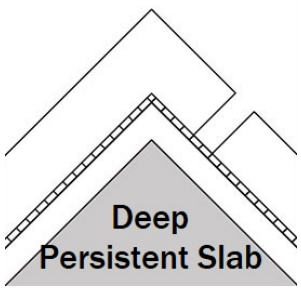
A cohesive layer of snow (a slab) formed by the wind drifted snow.

Reactive windslabs developed during recent SW - W winds around ridgelines and further downslope. While the strong winds have subsided and the intensive accumulation of snow has finally stopped, the recent wind slabs still need time to stabilize.

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

Problem Number 2 - Deep Slab



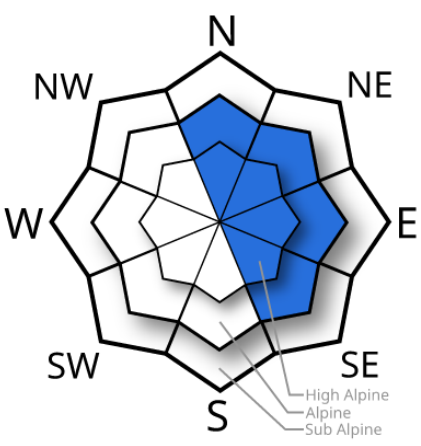


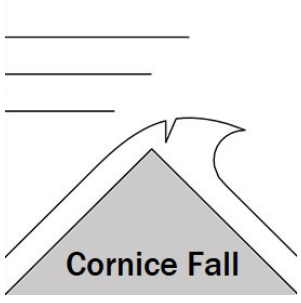
A weak layer, usually at or near the base of the snowpack, that resists bonding to an overlying slab over an extended time period.

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*

Problem Number 3 - Cornice





An overhanging ledge or shelf of snow that usually forms over the lee side of ridges.

Formation of cornices on lee aspects due to strong winds along with rise of temperatures on 25 and especially on 26 of february create conditions for cornices to fail, initiating subsequent natural avalanches that might step down to the deep persistent weak layer that exists on the same aspects.

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Possible	*2*	*Afternoon*	*Deteriorating*

Recent/Relevant Observations

Strong W and SW winds on 21-23 of February created wind crust on windward aspects and deposited significant amount of snow on lee aspects creating fresh wind slabs.
A number of size 2 natural avalanches were reported at SE, E and NE faces from 1600 to 3000 m on 20-24 Feb with some of them failing to the base layers.
Cornices were observed along the Lomisi ridge.

Changes in conditions since previous forecast

No changes

Weather Forecast

On 25 of February temperatures are forecasted to rise to around -4°C and on 26 February to +3°C in Gudauri (2200 m).