

Gudauri



Heavy snowfall + winds! Stronger snowfalls than expected with substantial wind-transport have created reactive wind-slabs, and more snow is on its way on Sunday 5 March and Monday 6. Note that wind slabs may also step down to the persistent base layer and produce large avalanches. In the subalpine, storm slabs (new snow) and wet snow (rain) are a concern. The hazard rating is subject to uncertainties in absolute snow fall amounts, but is trending to 4 ("high") in the high alpine and alpine in the course of tomorrow and forecasted at 4 ("high") Monday 6 March. The travel advice is simple: avoid all avalanche terrain.

Forecast issued at: **4-Mar-2023 19:00**

Forecast valid until: **6-Mar-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.

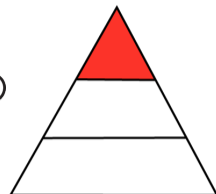
Forecaster: Peter S

Forecast Area

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High Alpine

> 2600m

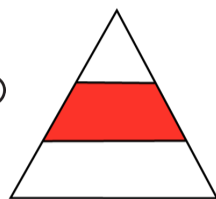


4 High

Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.

Alpine

2000m - 2600m

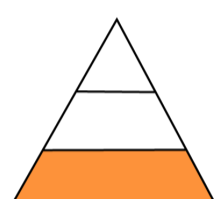


4 High

Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.

Sub Alpine

< 2000m

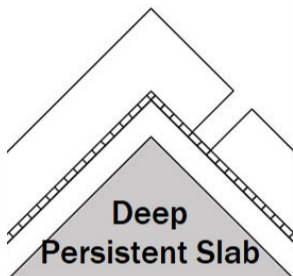
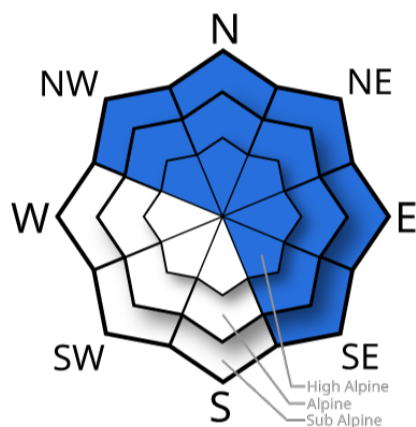


3 Considerable

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

Problem Number 1 - 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.

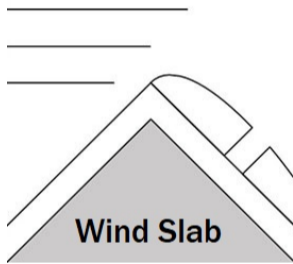
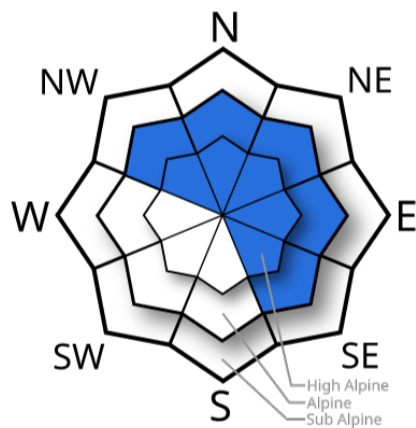


In some areas there the basal weak layer remains reactive to skiers. In some cases, whumph (collapse off weak layer) in low-angle terrain could travel through the snow and set off avalanches above you. This layer exists even at lower elevations, where avalanche can be large due to a wet snowpack (problem 3)

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Possible	3	All day	Deteriorating

Problem Number 2 - Wind Slab

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

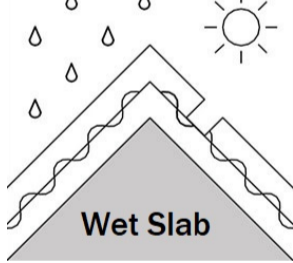
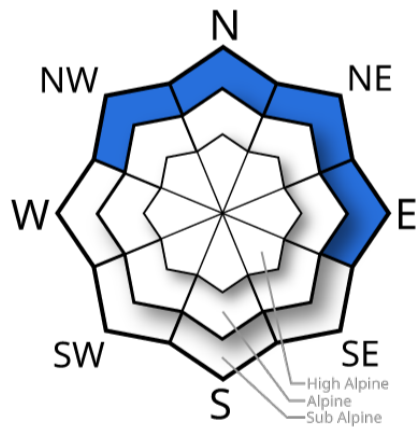


Moderate to strong S-SW-W winds and up to 70-100 cm of new snow create fresh wind slabs that can easily be triggered by a single skier, particularly below ridges crests at NW-N-NE-E and possibly SE aspects.

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Likely	3	All day	Deteriorating

Problem Number 3 - Wet Slab

A thick cohesive slab of snow losing its bond to a weaker layer after becoming damp, moist, or saturated with water.

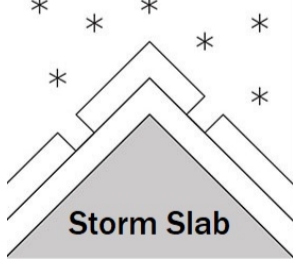
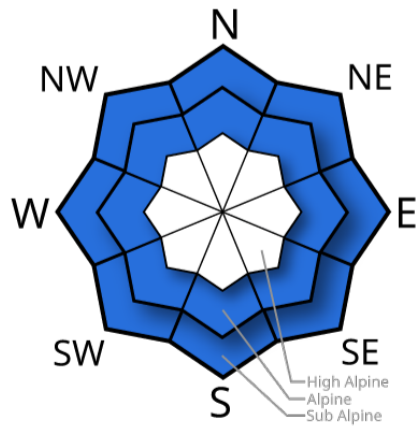


Due to warm temperatures and rain, wet loose avalanches may still be produced by a single skier or release naturally in lower elevations.

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Possible	2	Afternoon	

Problem Number 4 - Storm Slab

One or more layers of recent storm snow that have consolidated into a slab above a weak layer.



Over 70 cm of new snow will likely create storm slabs that are reactive to skier-triggering on all aspects.

Likelihood	Avalanche Size	Time of Day	Trend
Likely	2	Afternoon	Deteriorating

Recent/Relevant Observations

Qvesheti: 1700 m north aspects, ski-cut resulting in small (size 1) avalanche to ground; 1400 m, NE-E aspect, several natural size 1; Lomisi, 1500 m, NW asp., size 1 skier-cut

Weather Forecast

Between today (4 March) and the end of Monday (March 6) a total of over 70 -100 cm new snow are expected, with which may fall all wet snow or rain at lower elevations. Winds are generally moderate but sufficient to move snow, with variable wind directions from W-SW-S-SEE, and may at times be strong.