
AVALANCHE HAZARD SCALE

| Degree of hazard | Snowpack stability | Avalanche probability | For traffic & residential areas | For off-piste & back-country activities |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 1 (low) | The snowpack is generally well bonded and stable. | Triggering is possible only with high additional loads ² on a few very steep extreme slopes ⁴ . Only a few small natural avalanches (sluffs) possible. | No hazard from avalanches. | Virtually no restrictions on off-piste & back-country skiing & travel. |
| 2 (moderate) | The snowpack is moderately well bonded on some ¹ steep ³ slopes, otherwise generally well bonded. | Triggering is possible with high additional loads ² , particularly on the steep ³ slopes indicated in the bulletin. Large natural ⁶ avalanches not likely. | Virtually no hazard from natural avalanches. | Generally favourable conditions. Routes should still be selected with care, especially on steep ³ slopes of the aspect ⁵ and altitude indicated. |
| 3 (considerable) | The snowpack is moderately to weakly bonded on many ¹ steep ³ slopes. | Triggering is possible, sometimes even with low additional loads ² . The bulletin may indicate many slopes which are particularly affected. In certain conditions, medium and occasionally large sized natural ⁶ avalanches may occur. | Traffic and individual buildings in hazardous areas are at risk in certain cases. Precautions should be taken in these areas. | Off-piste and back-country skiing and travel should only be carried out by experienced persons able to evaluate avalanche hazard. Steep ³ slopes of the aspect ⁵ and altitude indicated should be avoided. |
| 4 (high) | The snowpack is weakly bonded in most ¹ places. | Triggering is probable even with low additional loads ² on many steep ³ slopes. In some conditions, frequent medium or large sized natural ⁶ avalanches are likely. | Avalanches may be of large magnitude. In hazardous areas, closure of road and other transport is recommended in some circumstances. | Off-piste and back-country skiing and travel should be restricted to low-angled slopes; areas at the bottom of slopes may also be hazardous. |

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| <p style="text-align: center;">5 (very high)</p> | <p>The snowpack is generally weakly bonded and largely unstable.</p> | <p>Numerous large natural⁶ avalanches are likely, even on moderately steep terrain.</p> | <p>Extensive safety measures (closures and evacuation) are necessary.</p> | <p>No off-piste or back country skiing or travel should be undertaken.</p> |
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Notes

1 Generally described in more detail in the avalanche bulletin (e.g. altitude, slope aspect, type of terrain, etc.).

2 Additional load: high - e.g. group of skiers, piste machine, avalanche blasting. Low - e.g. skier, walker.

3 Steep slopes: slopes with an incline of more than 30 degrees.

4 Steep extreme slopes: those which are particularly unfavourable in terms of the incline, terrain profile, proximity to ridge, smoothness of underlying ground surface.

5 Aspect: compass bearing directly down the slope.

6 Natural: Without human assistance