Avalancherisk assessmentbulletin

(valid outside marked and open slopes)

MASSIVE: CHABLAIS

written on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 4 p.m.

Risk estimation until Thursday, December 31, 2020 in the evening

Above 2000 m: Significant risk. Below: Limited risk.



Spontaneousdepartures:Possibly a rupture of a plate above 2200 m.

Triggers skiers: Numerous slabs, especially above 2000 m.

Risk indices: 5 very strong - 4 strong - 3 marked - 2 limited - 1 weak - In black: the most dangerous slopes

Snowpack stability

Typical avalanche situation: windy snow, persistent fragile sub-layer, especially at altitude.

For 3 days, the accumulation of fresh snow has been disparate from one place to another, between 30 and 50 cm at more than 1600/1800 m. Accumulation difficult to assess due to the strong southwest winds during the falls.

-Spontaneous avalanches: Some recent snow flows on steep slopes. Otherwise, we cannot totally exclude a large avalanche above 2200/2400 m in the shaded slopes (North, East or sometimes West).

- Triggers by skiers: Presence of numerous wind slabs (crumbly or in snow compacted by the wind), easy to trigger, especially above 2000 m. Be careful when approaching heavy slopes with accumulations of blown snow.

In the ubacs (East, North or even West slopes), beyond 2200/2300 m, the presence of a persistent fragile sub-layer. At these altitudes, we cannot exclude breaking a plate over a great width (trapping), including at the edge of accumulations where the snowpack is thinner.



Snow depth off-piste





Snow quality

- Snow cover a little lower than normal for the end of December, especially at altitude with great variations in thickness from one place to another (consequences of strong winds from North-East to South-West for at least a week). Be careful with pebbles hidden under recent fresh snow. You can wear shoes for ascent from 1100/1300 m depending on exposure.

-Quality: hard bottom frozen under 2000/2200 m, dense more or less crusted higher. On the surface, recent cold snow, blown by the strong North-East Bise Friday and Saturday then the South-West wind from Sunday to Tuesday. Ravaged / peeled ridges. Very visible signs of transport (large snow drifts, irregularities and changes in density ...).



Saturday 02:

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Written by Météo-France with the contribution of observers from the snow-meteorological network. Partnership: ANMSM (Mayors of Mountain Stations), DSF(Ski Areas of France), ADSP(Directors of Piste and Safety of Winter Sports Stations) and other mountain players.