Analyser for avalanche problems: What are the primary avalanche problems today? Where are they present in the terrain? How severe are the problems?

New snow

more than 10 cm of new snow during the last 1-3 days

Amount of new snow (cm)	10-20	20-40	>40
Duration (days)	72	48	24
Wind: during or just after snow fall			
Cold snow on wet surface or transition from cold to warm new snow	no		yes
Property of new snow	loose		slaby
Old snow surface and / or snowpack stratigraphy (old snow)			
Warning signs	no		often

Assessment of new snow problem

- ☐ on favourable old snow surface
- ☐ on unfavourable old snow surface
- ☐ weak layer deeper in snowpack
- ☐ large temperature differences old / new snow

- Are there differences in aspect or elevation?
- Are there weak layers deeper in the snowpack? (soft / large grains) → Old snow problem

Where is new snow problem especially present?

Wind-drifted snow

Recent deposits of wind-drifted snow in the last 1-2 days

Age (days) (if older than 2 days consider old snow!)	2-3	1-2	0-1
Amount of wind-drifted snow (cm)	5-10	10-40	>40
Snow temperatur (in general)	warm		cold
Structure of snowpack (old snow)			
Distribution of wind slab	specific		widespread
Warning signs	no		often

Assessment of wind slab problem

- ☐ during snowfall
- ☐ after snowfall
- ☐ Wind-drifted old snow

- Are there differences in aspect, elevation or shape of terrain?
- Are there weak layers deeper in the snowpack? (soft / large grains) → Old snow problem

Where is wind slab problem especially present?

Wet snow

Influx of water through rain or solar radiation

- Rain: little — heavy
- Wet snow surface (cm): 0 | 0-1 | 1-5 | >5
- Penetration depth (without skis): low — deep
- Distinct different layers (small grains above large grains): no — yes
- Snowpack in general
- Hardness of lower layers: 1 Finger — Fist
- Warning signs: no — often

Assessment of new snow problem

☐ Spring situation ☐ Thaw with rain

- Are there differences in aspect or elevation?

Where is wet snow problem especially present?

Old snow

since 3 or more days no change caused by:
- new snow
- wind-drifted snow
- influx of water

- Snow depth in general: large — shallow
- Snowpack information from avalanche bulletin
- Stability tests
- Snow profile (Stratigraphy)
- Break through harder layers into soft, weaker layer (on foot): never — often
- Warning signs: no — often

Assessment of old snow problem

☐ Facets or depth hoar underlaying cohesive slabby layers
☐ buried surface hoar

- Are there differences in aspect, elevation or shape of terrain?

Where is old snow problem especially present?

favourable to unfavourable — partly supplemented by headings (e.g. Warning signs: no — often)

Stephan Harvey/SLF, version 2019