RiskCheck for cruxes

Consequences of avalanche release

small: not completely buried, uninjured
large: deep burial, fatal injury

2

Rough assessment

How large is the slope?
Large slope above is unfavorable

What is below?
- Obstacles in the avalanche path
- Terrain trap or danger of fall

Are several persons affected?
Suitable areas to gather group between short sections are favourable

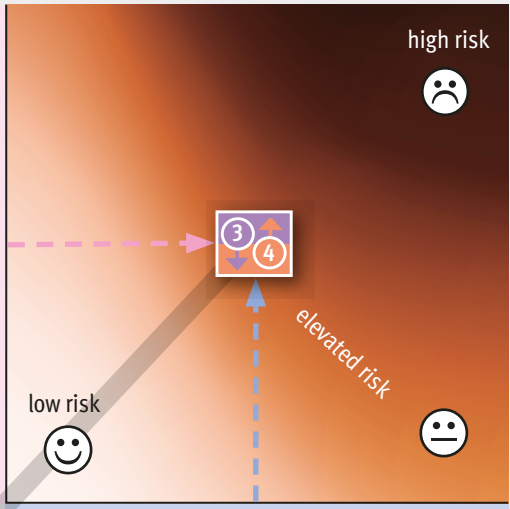
Detailed assessm.

How much snow is released?
Deep burial or high mechanic forces with large snow masses

Other factors?
- hardly any escape possibilities
- difficult conditions for rescue

large

small



minor major

Danger: Release probability

minor: favorable avalanche situation
major: weak snowpack, spontanous avalanches

1

Rough assessment

What is the roughly classified danger

Look for clear indications from the following elements:
- avalanche bulletin
- slope angle
- signs of instability in the last 24 hours
- fresh tracks
- frequently travelled

Detailed assessment

Refine danger assessment:
Avalanche problems, avalanche forming processes

- **Is there a weak layer? Can a failure be initiated?**
  Typical: buried facated snow surface or surface hoar within the upper meter of the snowpack.
- **Is there a slab? Does it support crack propagation?**
  Typical: at least slightly bonded layers above the weak layer
- **Is the snowpack of the slope uniform?**
  Typical: low variability favours wide-spread fracture propagation
- **Other factors?**
  Additional danger due to remote triggering, other people, spontaneous avalanches etc.

Consider **precautionary measures**

Can the probability of triggering an avalanche be reduced?
Choose less steep terrain, avoid large loading, etc.

Can the consequences of an avalanche be reduced?
Travel one at a time through exposed areas, avoid areas with terrain traps, etc.

How effective are the measures?
Combine measures to reduce the risk!

3 4

Evaluate the **risk**

How big are the uncertainties?
Is the assessment accordingly defensive?

What is the effect of human factors?

Does the **risk suit** me and the group?

Exponential increase

Not recommended, choose alternative

May be feasible considering risk reducing measures. Training and experience required! Inexperienced should avoid this area!

Relatively safe at acceptable residual risk