

RISKCHECK FOR CRUXES with THUMBS

Consequences

small:
not completely buried, uninjured

large:
deep burial, fatal injury

Left hand:
Rough assessment

How big is the slope above me?
 <20m 👍 ~50m 👎 >100m 👎

Terrain traps?
 - fall
 - trees, rocks
 - deep burial
 👎

Inevitably, several persons are caught
 one position down
 e.g. from 👎 to 👎

Consequences of an avalanche
 large 👎
 small 👍

minor 👍 👎 major 👎

Exponential increase

high risk
 ☹️ ❌ Not recommended. Choose alternative.

elevated risk
 😐 ❓ Detailed assessment necessary, otherwise not recommended. Effective additional measures are appropriate.
 ⚠️ Caution! False evaluation quickly lead to high risk. In case of uncertainty → Turn around

low risk
 😊 ✅ The crux can be passed as long as the measures are respected.

↑
 😊
 😐
 ☹️ ↓

Danger: Release probability
 minor: favorable avalanche situation major: weak snowpack spontaneous avalanches

Right hand: Rough assessment

Preparation / GRM:
 GRM (grafical reduction method)
 🟢 👍 🟠 👎 🟡 👎

Signs of instability
 Many tracks or/and frequently travelled ←---←
 at least one position up
 e.g. from 👎 to 👎

Signs of instability are present 👎

Detailed assessment (adjust)

Consequences

More details

- How much snow is released?
- Escape possibilities?
- Rescue?

Combine mesures, e.g.:

- Travel on the flattest part of slopes
- Prefer ridge-like (convexe) terrain
- Stay within already tracked areas
- Avoid large loading (falling, gathering, jumping)
- Avoid fresh wind-drifted snow
- Avoid places with a higher risk of fall or burial
- Gather group in non-exposed areas («islands of safety»)
- As much as possible, only one person in the exposed area (one at a time, spread out).

Danger: Release probability

- Is there a weak layer?
Can a failure be initiated?
- Is there a slab?
Does it support crack propagation?
- Is the snowpack homogeneous across the entire slope?
- Other factors?

Slope angle:
 The probability of triggering is lower for:

- track ≤ 30 degrees or
- entire slope < 35 degrees

- Typically for high trigger probability**
- Significant new snow amount
 - Fresh wind-drifted snow
 - Very weak snowpack layering
 - Water penetrates into snow cover for the first time