AVALANCHE CARD – make your trip safer

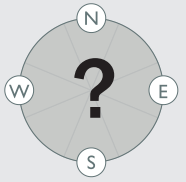
STEP 1:TRIP PLANNING

Choose trip and terrain according to:

- **Avalanche forecast – varsom.no**
  danger level, avalanche problem and most exposed aspects and elevation
- **Weather forecast –** visibility, wind, precipitation and temperature
- **Group –** number of people, equipment, experience, knowledge and skills

Which avalanche problems exist where you plan to go?

Where are the avalanche problems present – which aspects and elevation?



Plan the trip on a map - both ascent and decent.
Use the travel advice in the forecast and available guidebooks. Consider alternative routes.

Terrain classes:
Simple: LIMITED exposure to avalanche terrain
Challenging: OCCASIONAL exposure to avalanche terrain
Complex: LONG exposure to avalanche terrain
Mark avalanche terrain and critical areas on the map – where you need to make a decision

Do you want to learn more? **www.varsom.no/snoskredskolen/**

Tips: Limit the size of your group (2-4) to make it easier to communicate, agree on the goal for the day, make good decisions and keep an eye on each other.

STEP 2: AREA EVALUATION – AT THE START AND DURING THE TRIP

Is there anything that`s different from when you planned the trip?

Group? 
Communication? 
Equipment? 
Avalanche terrain? 

Terrain traps? 
Avalanche problem? 
Weather? 
Visibility? 

- Do a beacon check!
- Continously assess conditions and terrain!

Total evaluation? 

STEP 3: EVALUATE SINGLE SLOPE – CRITICAL POINTS

Why is it safe to cross, go up, or down this slope?

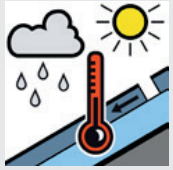
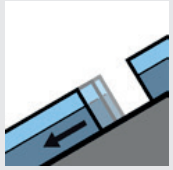
Are you in avalanche terrain? 
Is the avalanche problem (s) present? 
Can you and your group handle this? 
Is there something unexpected? 

Total evaluation? 

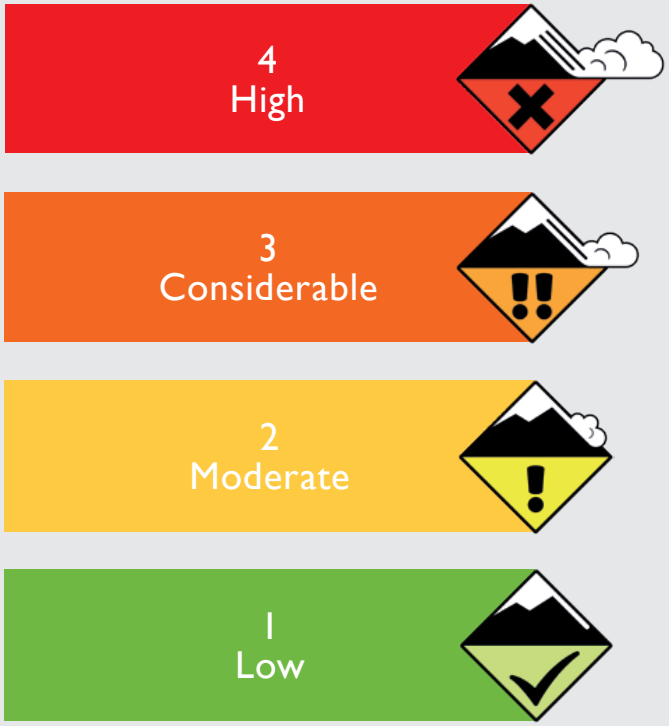
- Ensure good communication within the group.
- Ski one at a time in avalanche terrain!
- Keep an eye on each other!
- Stop in safe spots!

TIPS: Stay alert and focused! Are there changes in the group, snow or weather conditions ?

Travelling in avalanche terrain requires you to be able to handle the avalanche problems!
Avalanche terrain = Release area (>30˚) + runout zone (≈3x height of the slope)

	**Persistent weak layer** - slab avalanches	Avoid avalanche terrain. Remote triggering is likely. *Whumpf* sounds are often a danger sign. Unpredictable conditions!
	**Wind-drifted snow** - slab avalanches	Avoid areas with wind-drifted snow, typically behind ridges on lee slopes and in gullies.
	**New snow** - slab avalanches - loose snow avalanches	Avoid steep terrain during and after snowfall, until the fresh snow has stabilised.
	**Wet snow** - slab avalanches - loose snow avalanches	Be careful if it`s raining or rapidly increasing temperature. The avalanche danger can vary a lot during the day!
	**Gliding snow** - slab avalanches	Naturally triggered and hard to predict.

AVALANCHE DANGER SCALE



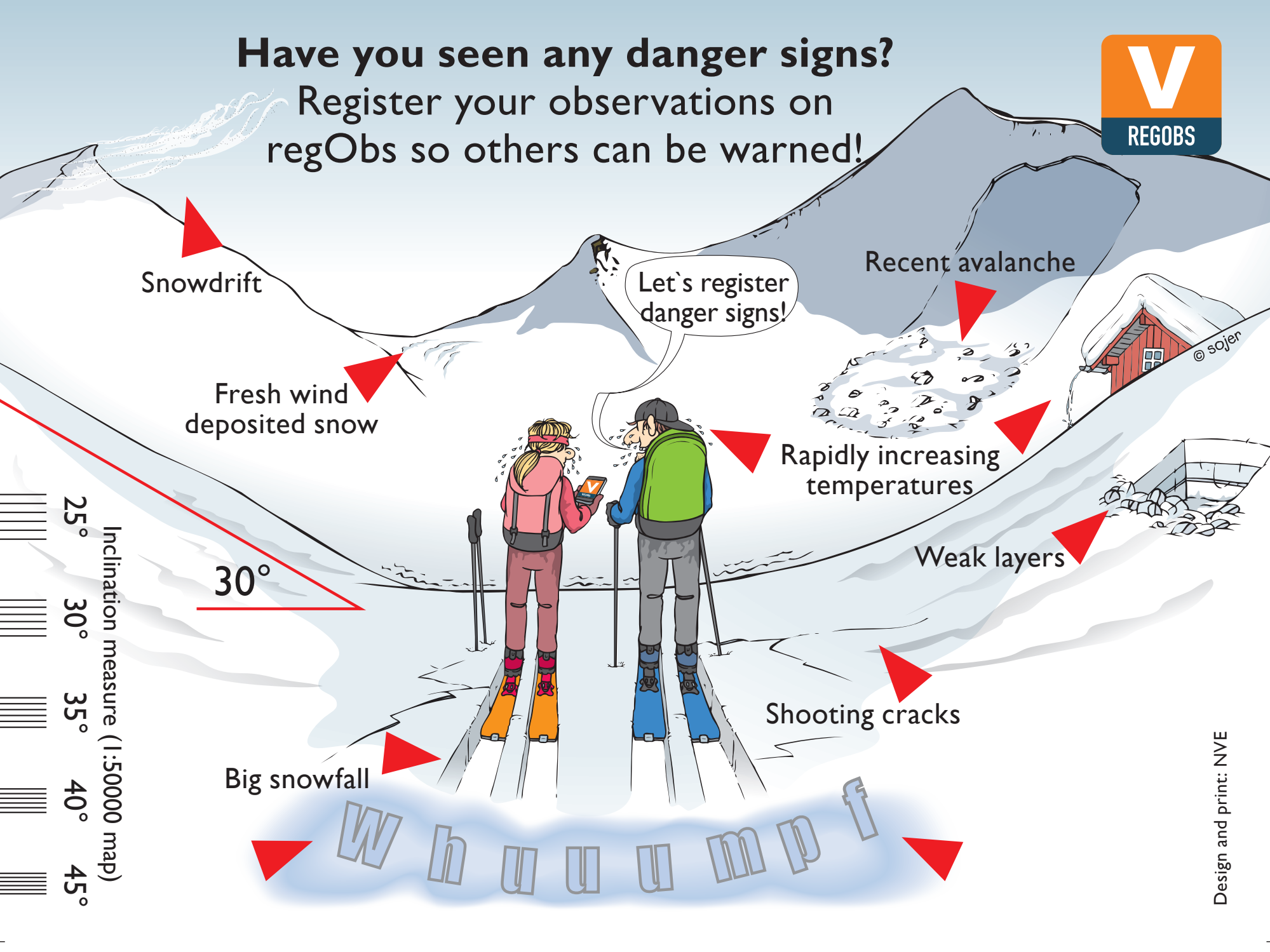
Danger level 5 occurs very rarely.
Stay away from avalance terrain.

- In most avalanche accidents it is the victim or someone in the victim's group who triggers the avalanche.
- The likelihood of avalanches doubles for each increase in danger level.
- Most accidents occur within danger levels 2 and 3.

Have you seen any danger signs?

Register your observations on regObs so others can be warned!

REGOBS



Inclination measure (1:50000 map)

25° 30° 35° 40° 45°

Design and print: NVE