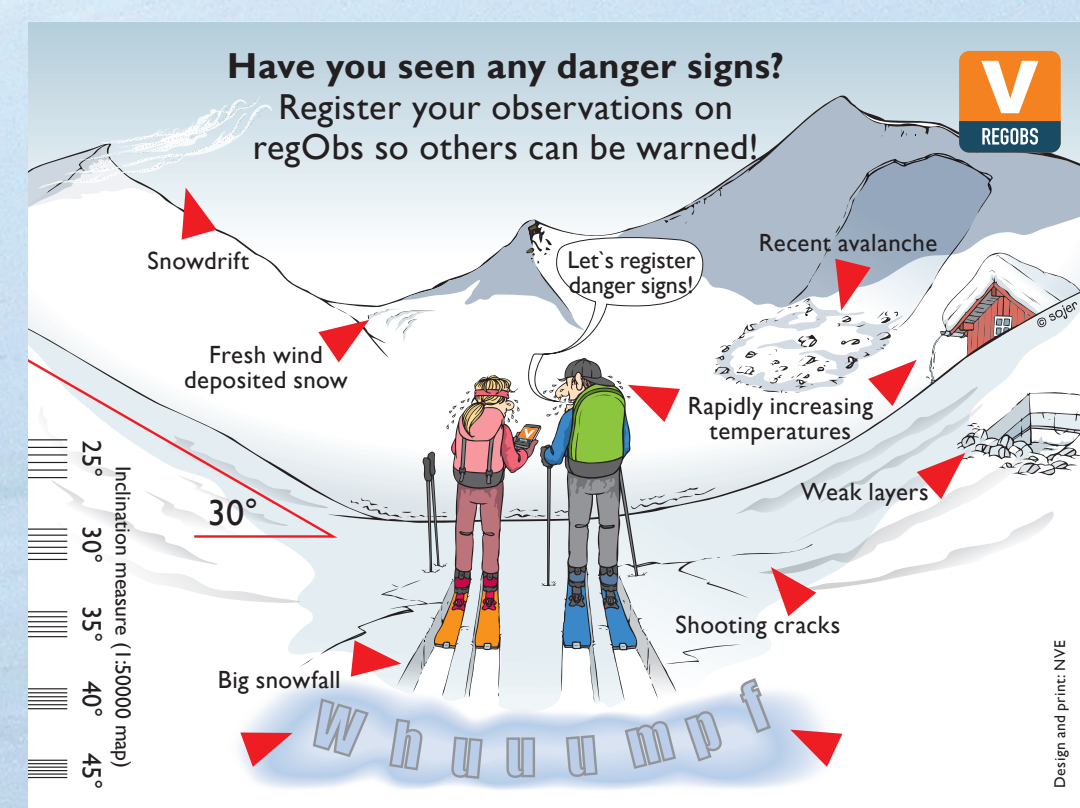


AVALANCHE WARNING

Checked varsom.no?



Foto: Justein Asen/NVE



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?			Terrain traps?			• Do a beacon check!
Communication?			Avalanche problem?			• Continuously assess conditions and terrain!
Equipment?			Weather?			
Avalanche terrain?			Visibility?			
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?			• Ensure good communication within the group.
Is the avalanche problem (s) present?			• Ski one at a time in avalanche terrain!
Can you and your group handle this?			• Keep an eye on each other!
Is there something unexpected?			• Stop in safe spots!
Total evaluation?			

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. <i>Whumpf</i> 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

4 High	
3 Considerable	
2 Moderate	
1 Low	

Danger level 5 occurs very rarely. Stay away from avalanche 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.