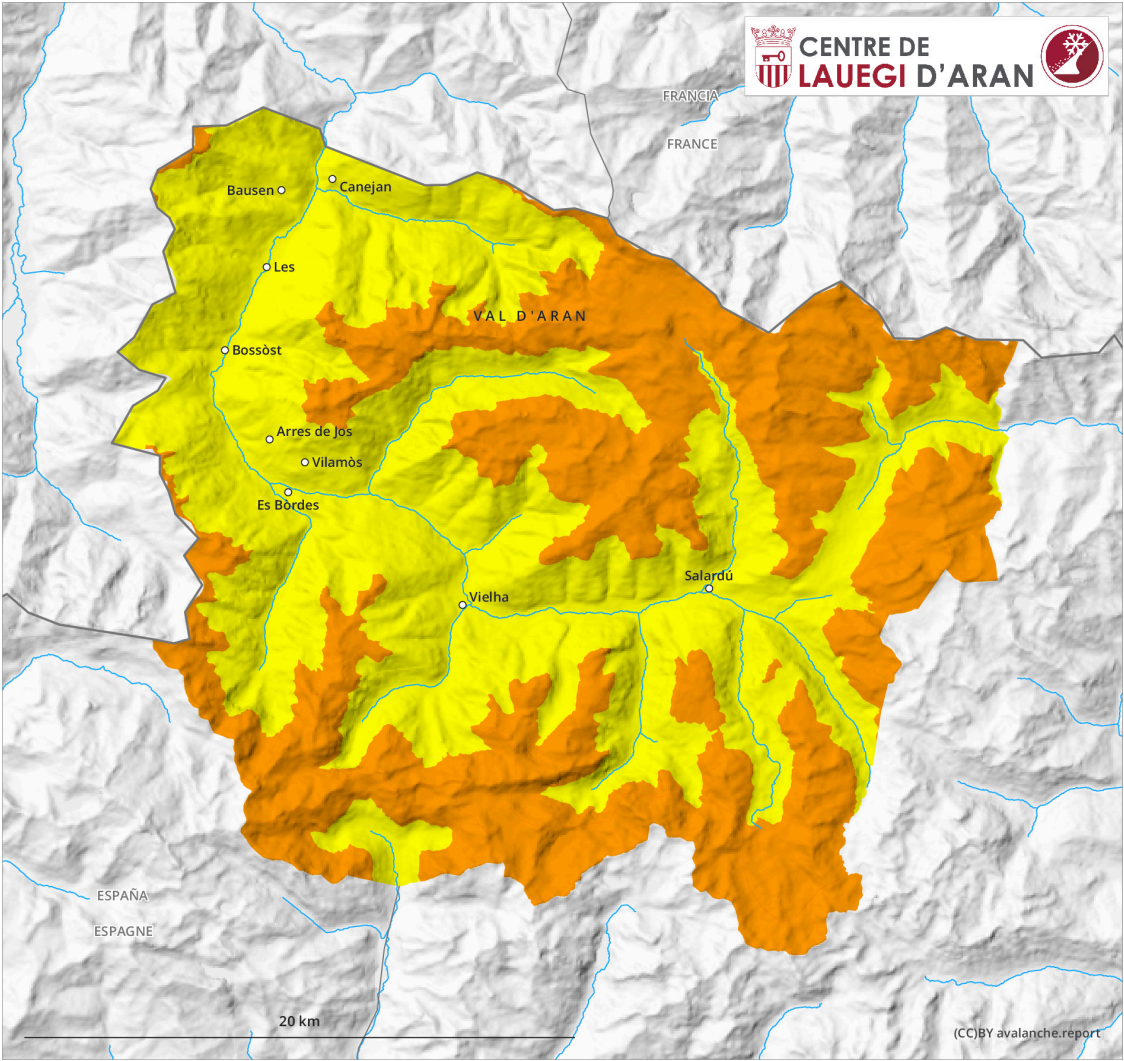
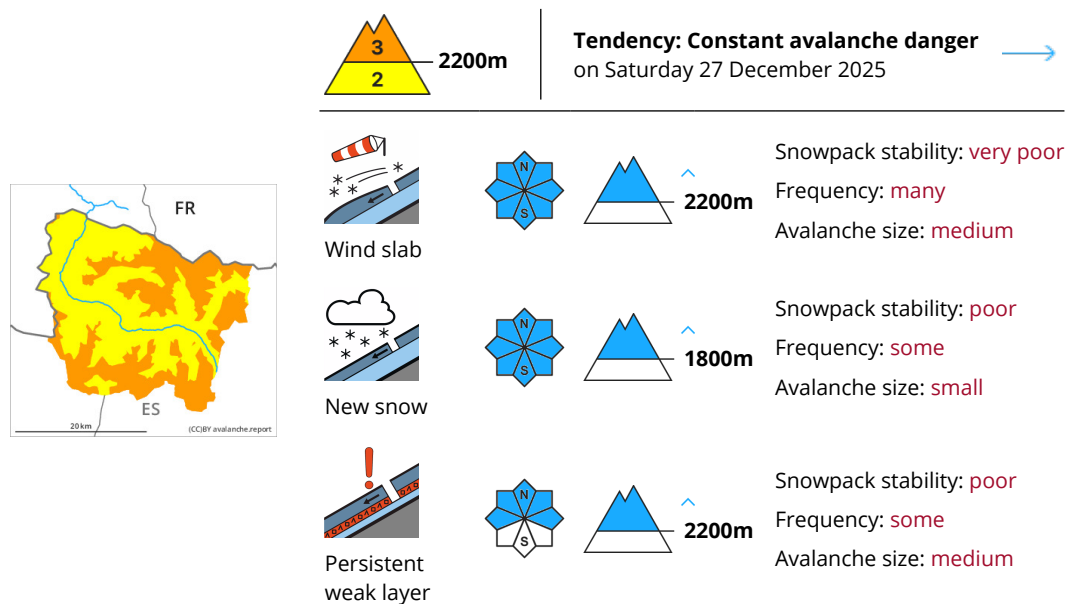


Danger Level 3 - Considerable



New snow, wind slabs and old snow are to be assessed with care and prudence.

The cold fresh snow and all the wind slabs must be evaluated with care and prudence in all aspects. This snow is lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are sometimes deep and prone to triggering. As a consequence of new snow and a moderate southeasterly wind, further wind slabs will form by Boxing Day in particular on north and west facing slopes. Sometimes dry avalanches are medium-sized. In particular in regions exposed to heavier precipitation the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Snowpack

30 to 40 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, fell in the last few days above approximately 1500 m. Sunny slopes low and intermediate altitudes: As a consequence of mild temperatures and solar radiation the snowpack settled until the middle of the day. Shady slopes intermediate and high altitudes: The new snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Released avalanches and field observations confirm this situation.

Boxing Day: Some snow will fall until the early morning. The southeasterly wind will transport the new snow.

At intermediate altitudes there are 50 to 100 cm of snow, and even more in some localities. At elevated altitudes snow depths vary greatly, depending on the influence of the wind.



Tendency

Saturday: The danger of dry avalanches will not decrease for the time being. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day after a long period of poor weather.