

# Avalanche News

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 14.11.2008, at 10:15



### CAUTION AT HIGHER ALTITUDES AND IN HIGH ALPINE REGIONS ON VERY STEEP, SHADY SLOPES.

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#### AVALANCHE DANGER

Caution is advised towards potential avalanche danger along the Main Alpine Ridge on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2600 m. In addition, in southern East Tyrol above approximately 2300 m near to ridges, and on steep, shady slopes, caution is essential towards the small snowdrift accumulations. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading in these regions. The situation is least favourable in those regions of the southern Ötztal Alps with lots of snow, where in glacial, shady, steep terrain, slab avalanches can be triggered from the layer of depth hoar near the ground. Point release avalanches are expected on steep slopes in the course of the day.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Up to 35 cm of snow fell over the last two days in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, the eastern foothills of the Silvretta and in southern East Tyrol, amid little wind influence; elsewhere above approximately 1200 m, there was generally 10 to 20 cm. The biggest avalanche hazard currently is the cohesive old snowpack which was present before this snowfall: in southern East Tyrol on west-northwest to north to east-northeast above 2300 m, along the Main Alpine Ridge above about 2500 m, on sunny slopes above about 2900 m. The snowpack fundament below 2600 m is generally hard snow which was influenced by rainfall. With increasing altitude the layer of depth hoar becomes thicker, providing a bed surface for avalanches along the Main Alpine Ridge. The old snow surface before the current snowfall on shady slopes, on the other hand, consisted of loosely packed powder, often blanketed by crystals of surface hoar. Wherever it was windy and snow was transported, it must be assumed that the bonding of the snowdrift to the old snow surface is poor.

#### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

From France to Germany, a high pressure zone is spreading over the Alps. On Sunday night a weak cold zone will traverse Tyrol. Next week additional disturbances are expected from the northwest. Higher peaks will soon be bathed in sunshine. During the course of the day, increasingly frequent bright spells are anticipated on the southern flank of the Alps. From the Main Alpine Ridge and north thereof, the fog level will drop towards 1500 to 2000 m as the disturbances recede, at intermediate altitudes it is expected to remain foggy today. Light to moderate northeasterly winds will prevail. Temperatures at 2000 m: minus 4 to minus 1 degrees, at 3000 minus 7 to minus 3 degrees.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In high alpine regions on very steep and shady slopes, continued caution is advised towards potential avalanche danger. The next information on the avalanche situation will be published whenever conditions change significantly.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe