

Avalanche News

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 19.09.2011, at 16:19



Short-term danger of full depth wet snowslides on steep, grassy slopes!

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the mountains of Tirol, perilous conditions have suddenly set in due to large amounts of snowfall in some parts. Potential avalanche danger is currently limited to full depth wet snowslides more than anything else. The snowpack can slide away on the ground surface, particularly on steep, smooth grassy slopes. Close attention must be accorded to this hazard, especially on hiking trails and exposed roads below steep meadow slopes. In addition, loose snow avalanches can be expected in extremely steep terrain tomorrow, particularly in those place where the sun is shining. Fresh, small snowdrift accumulations can also be dislodged by the weight of mountain climbers, particularly in high alpine regions, i.e. above about 3000 m, in very steep, wind protected areas near ridge lines.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 48 hours there has been widespread snowfall above approximately 1000 m: between 30 and 50 cm along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tirol, more than 100 cm in isolated high alpine regions. There are currently no noticeably weak layers detectable inside the snowpack, meaning that the major peril to beware comes from snowslides released across steep, smooth slopes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Cold! In the western Upper Inn Valley and the Ausserfern region, there is currently light to moderate rainfall, the snowfall level here is between 1100 and 1600 m. In the Lower Inn Valley, it is expected to rain or snow all day long, to some extent intensely. The snowfall level here is between low lying areas and 1200 m. In East Tirol, heavy rains are expected, the snowfal level will drop to beneath 1000 m. By this evening, conditions will calm. In western South Tirol, only a small amount of rainfall, with bright intervals in late afternoon. Highest temperatures will be between plus 2 degrees in Kitzbühel and plus 7 degrees in Landeck, in South Tirol as high as 15 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger is expected to be over at latest on Thursday, due to the forecasted improvement in weather conditions and rising temperatures. The next bulletin will be published at the next heavy snowfall. Until then, our best wishes for a beautiful autumn!

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe