



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Ongoing low avalanche danger, increasing in foehn lanes due to wind

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions remains low. Only in the classic foehn lanes where winds also reach low lying areas has it increased to moderate. Particularly in forest regions, the loosely packed, faceted crystals on the surface are being transported, forming relatively small sized snowdrift masses afresh which are easily triggered. Elsewhere there are only extremely isolated avalanche prone locations to be found mainly on extremely steep, shady slopes. Sluffs can be released in gullies and bowls especially by large additional loading, on hollow-sounding, hard snow surfaces in particular. The peril of falling is currently greater than that of being caught in an avalanche.

SNOW LAYERING

The strong, to some extent storm-strength foehn winds are bringing about new snow transport in forest areas in particular, where the old snowpack consisting of loosely packed, faceted and unbonded crystals is easily swept up by the massive winds, leading to new snowdrift accumulations in wind protected zones. These can easily be triggered by minimum additional loading. At high altitudes and in high alpine regions there is not enough loosely packed snow to be transported; moreover, the surface is very irregular. The result of this is a dearth of potential bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The cold front of a low over northwestern Europe is approaching, preceded by a bout of foehn wind on the northern flank of the Alps. The cold front will bring a bit of rain and snow on Friday, amidst temporarily lower temperatures in the mountains. As of Saturday, the edge of a high pressure zone will alter conditions, temperatures rising. Mountain weather today: deteriorating weather from the south and west, visibility often diffuse, a few snowflakes in the glacier regions this afternoon. In the Kitzbühel Alps as far as the Lofer Steinberge, more sunshine and better visibility, winds there are lighter. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: -4 degrees. Strong southerly winds, in the classic lanes reaching storm strength, but slackening off somewhat during the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable avalanche situation. Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe