



**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#); [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

## Heavy snowfall, increasingly critical avalanche situation in East Tirol

### AVALANCHE DANGER

An unfavourable situation prevails widespread in Tirol's backcountry touring regions. The danger is generally considerable, mainly from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are found on wind loaded and ridgeline slopes in all aspects, the frequency and magnitude of the danger zones tending to increase with rising altitude. During the day naturally triggered avalanches can be expected along the main Ötztal and Stubai ridges in particular. The situation in East Tirol is even more critical, the danger may even increase to level 4, high, particularly in the Carnic Alps. In that case, naturally triggered medium sized, even large sized avalanches in isolated cases, can be expected; exposed transportation routes can be put at risk. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, immense experience is required in evaluating the avalanche situation.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been heavy snowfall, as much as 50 cm, along the main Ötztal and Stubai ridge in particular. In East Tirol there was 20 to 30 cm in southern regions; along the Tauern Ridge, 10 to 15 cm. In remaining North Tirol there was just a few cm. New fallen and old snow alike were transported by storm strength southerly foehn winds. The deep snowdrift masses which accumulated were deposited for the most part on top of a loosely packed, weak old snowpack. The likelihood of triggering is therefore high, avalanches can even sweep away the old snow cover and attain large size.

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

Weather in general: A low will move along the southern flank of the Alps today bringing precipitation to Tirol. Tomorrow, Friday, an intermediate high will make itself felt. On Saturday, foehn wind, before on Sunday the next bout of precipitation arrives. Towards New Year's Day, Tirol will probably be subjected to foehn influence at the rim of a high pressure zone. Mountain weather today: The peaks in the vicinity of the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards thereof will be shrouded in fog, accompanied by sometimes heavy snowfall, most of which will fall between Dolomites and Carnic Alps where by the end of the day more than a half-meter of fresh fallen snow could accumulate. In the Northern Alps, strong foehn wind to start with, moderate precipitation persisting into the latter part of the day. Temperature at 2000m, initially 0 degrees, dropping to -6 degrees later on; at 3000m: -5 to -10 degrees. Still strong to stormy southerly winds to begin with, slackening off from the west over the course of the day.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede only gradually, critical situation remains in outlying terrain

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