



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#); [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#); [dp.2 - sliding snow](#)

Considerable danger in south, better conditions in north. Beware snowdrift.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger follows a distinct north-south axis. In southern regions the danger persists at the level considerable, in the north the hazards depend on altitude, beneath the treeline they are low. The major peril stems from fresh and older drifted snow, frequently on west to north to east facing slopes and in ridgeline areas in all aspects. Slab avalanches are most likely on very steep, shady slopes at the rims of forests and above them, sometimes even triggerable by minimum additional loading. Frequency of avalanche prone locations is significantly higher in southern than in northern regions. Caution: The most recent snowfall came without much wind, making the previously formed snowdrift accumulations beneath it difficult to recognize. In the regions of East Tirol where snowfall was heaviest, caution is urged towards full depth snowslides on steep, grass covered slopes, their immanent release usually "announced" by glide cracks in the snowpack surface. Be sure to avoid areas beneath such glide cracks.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been between 5 and 15 cm of snowfall in Tirol, in west-northwest to north to east-northeast aspects atop a generally poor old snowbase composed of faceted crystals and depth hoar. Slab avalanches which triggered during recent days often released on just such bed surfaces. In addition, avalanches at the borderline between recently drifted snow and the loosely packed, cold new fallen snow are possible, particularly in southern regions.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: sunny, not too cold, without wind, outstanding visibility, often cloudless skies, freezing level between 1600 and 1800 m this afternoon. Temperature at 2000m: -3 degrees; at 3000m: -9 degrees. Weather in general: A high pressure zone will bring dry weather to the Alps until tomorrow. The early days of the new year will then be dominated by a mild and variable westerly current.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will diminish only gradually.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe