



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8](#) - surface hoar blanketed with snow; [dp.6](#) - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind; [dp.3](#) - rain

Rising avalanche danger due to foehn winds and snowfall

AVALANCHE DANGER

Foehn wind and snowfall are the determinants of today's danger level, expected to increase over the course of the day to Level 3 in East Tirol and the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge. In southern East Tirol the danger may even climb to Level 4 (high) tonight. Wherever snowfall is heavy, e.g. in the southernmost regions, west to north to east facing slopes will get naturally triggered, usually small sized avalanches, most of them during the coming night. The cause: surface hoar, very poorly bonded to the fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow masses. Isolated naturally triggered avalanches are also expected in the old snowpack of north facing slopes. Furthermore, at low altitudes where rainfall is intense (again, the southernmost regions) more frequent full depth snowslides are anticipated. Much better conditions in the north, where fresh snowdrift accumulations nonetheless require caution. Lastly, in extremely steep north facing terrain, avalanches can be released in places where the snow is shallow.

SNOW LAYERING

It will become very windy today; at the heights, stormy. Later on it will begin to snow or rain. The structure of the surface hoar is the critical factor, often forming a threatening bed surface for the new fallen and newly drifted snow on top of it up to 2200m, sometimes even above that altitude, on west to north to east facing slopes. Furthermore, the fundament is often full of depth hoar, meaning it could collapse on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes. Fresh snowdrift can also trigger at the borderline to the loosely packed powder snow atop it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: foehn storms in the mountains, attaining velocities of over 100 km/h, plus cloudbanks fogging in the high peaks, intermittent snowfall, becoming heavier this afternoon and spreading over to the Northern Alps. Temperature at 2000m: +1 degree; at 3000m: -2 degrees. Strong to storm-force southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Predominantly unfavourable conditions except in the north

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe