



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#); [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#); [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#)

Considerable avalanche danger, particularly in East Tirol

AVALANCHE DANGER

The current avalanche situation in Tirol is highly varied: in East Tirol and along the Main Alpine Ridge the danger level is considerable over widespread areas; in remaining North Tirol it is predominantly moderate; along the Northern Alps, frequently low. The major peril stems from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations which were usually deposited on a loosely packed old snow cover or atop surface hoar, making them highly prone to triggering: avalanches can be released even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridgelines above approximately 2200m, on west to north to east facing slopes in particular.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there was 15 to 20 cm of snowfall in East Tirol and along the Main Alpine Ridge; further to the north, only a few cm. High altitude winds tapered off, yet were still above transport velocity in the early part of the day. The latest new fallen and the fresh and older drifted snows have frequently been deposited on top of a weak, loose old snowpack. In addition, particularly on shady slopes up to approximately 2400m, trigger sensitive surface hoar has now been blanketed over by fresh fallen snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Wedged between a low pressure front west of Ireland and a Mediterranean low which is withdrawing, an intermediate high pressure zone will prevail in Tirol today. The high altitude air current will shift to southwesterly and bring quite dry, mild air our way. Mountain weather today: Temperatures will climb noticeably at higher altitudes as a result of the foehn-influenced westerly to southwesterly current, the freezing level rising to 3000m this afternoon. Mostly unimpeded sunshine. Temperature at 2000m: +4 degrees; at 3000m: -1 degree. Light westerly, later shifting to southwesterly, winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is expected to diminish.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe