



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

Fresh ridgeline & shady terrain snowdrift is main danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Quite favourable conditions currently reign in backcountry touring regions. The avalanche danger, highly dependent on altitude, is generally low below the treeline, moderate above that altitude. During the day, danger rises to moderate wherever the snow is deeper due to the thoroughly wet snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes, making full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes more likely. However the main danger is currently the snowdrift brought about by high winds on Saturday and Sunday, particularly in very steep, north facing ridgeline terrain above approximately 2500m. Elsewhere avalanches can be released especially on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes and in transition areas from shallow to deep snow by large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

On north facing slopes at high altitudes, fresh snowdrift can be triggered where it borders with the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it. On sun-drenched slopes this borderline is now well bonded, the old snowpack is becoming less and less prone to triggering. This is confirmed by snowpack analysis as well as professional on-site reports. The snow cover on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes is increasingly faceted, with embedded depth hoar and old, now disintegrating crusts, but the tendency towards fracture propagation is generally small. Minor nests of depth hoar where avalanches could trigger are to be found on north facing slopes where the snow is shallow, above 3000m in other aspects as well. The snowpack on steep, sunny slopes becomes thoroughly wet during the day. In regions where the snow is shallow, firm or corn snow could form today.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: brilliant sunny weather with cloudless skies until past midday. Light foehn wind, mild temperatures (zero-degree level at 2000m). This afternoon cloud will move into the Upper Inn Valley, this evening the peaks will become enveloped in fog from the southwest and temperatures drop. In the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge light snowfall will set in. Temperature at 2000m: + 2 degrees, at 3000m, -5 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds, strong in the foehn-exposed regions of North Tirol.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift will continue to be the main danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe