



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

## Amidst snowfall, heightened avalanche danger in high altitude southern regions

### AVALANCHE DANGER

All in all, quite favourable conditions currently reign in backcountry touring regions. The avalanche danger above approximately 2000m is frequently moderate; below that altitude, low. However the predicted snowfall will augment the danger level, particularly in East Tirol, southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and in the typical foehn lanes, where freshly drifted masses will form, raising the danger level above about 2300m to considerable as of this afternoon. Also in other regions, caution is urged towards the recently accumulated and soon-to-accumulate snowdrift. Avalanche prone locations are frequently found in very steep, W/NW to N to E/NE facing ridgelines and behind bench edges in the terrain, usually difficult to recognize due to poor visibility. The old snowpack can be released where snow is shallow on shady slopes only by large additional loading, for the most part. Isolated full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes are still a threat in East Tirol.

### SNOW LAYERING

In some regions the snowfall has already set in. During the day it will spread its reach throughout Tirol. Winds will be light to moderate, more intense only in East Tirol. Wherever fresh snowdrift is deposited, it can be easily triggered. Elsewhere, faceted snow crystals beneath crusts could still serve as a potential bed surface for slab avalanches. Numerous snow profiles have shown, however, that there is little tendency towards fracture propagation.

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

Mountain weather today: wintery weather, sinking temperatures, spreading snowfall. The Kitzbühel Alps and Kaiser will remain dry for longest today (foehn-induced). Moderate snowfall (more intense on Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps) will gradually fill the day, fog deteriorate visibility. From western Main Ridge to Carnic Alps and Villgraten peaks, 20 to 40 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated; in western regions, 10 to 20 cm; in the eastern sector of the Northern Alps, 5 to 10 cm. Snowfall will taper off tonight. Temperature at 2000m: -6 degrees; at 3000m, -9 degrees. Moderate to strong southerly winds, with strong gusts in the foehn-exposed regions of North Tirol. Winds will shift to westerly to northwesterly tonight and slacken off slightly.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift will continue to be the main danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe