



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

Rising winds will increase avalanche danger, beware snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is directly contingent on wind impact, which varies greatly from region to region and even within one region. In the typical foehn-exposed lanes, considerable danger prevails above the treeline this morning; below that altitude, danger is moderate. In the wind-quiet regions the danger will vary over the course of the day, in general it is moderate above 2000m, low below that altitude. This afternoon winds will intensify and the danger level rise to considerable above the treeline in those regions as well. Above all, beware freshly accumulated snowdrift which can be easily triggered in steep terrain. Isolated locations where slab avalanches are prone to trigger in the old snowpack are found in transitions from shallow to deep snow in very steep terrain on W/NW to N to E/NE facing slopes above approximately 2200m. Above about 2700m danger zones are also evident in the other aspects. In East Tirol, full depth snowslides still threaten on steep, grass covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The loosely packed powder snow which skiers were able to enjoy yesterday will be heavily transported by wind today. The bonding between fresh snowdrift and the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it is poor, the proneness to triggering high. In shady ridgeline terrain, surface hoar (Nigg effect) was evident yesterday, which raises the likelihood of release still further. Weakly bonded layers in the old snow cover are found in faceted snow crystals and depth hoar beneath thin crusts. All in all, the bonding is adequate, but small, very loosely packed nests of depth hoar could nonetheless trigger avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Cloudbanks will pass over the summits, visibility will be somewhat diffuse but in the vicinity of the Inn Valley adequate. Only the 3000-meter peaks on the Main Alpine Ridge will be cloaked in clouds. This afternoon, southerly winds will intensify markedly, zero-degree level in the Northern Alps at about 2200m. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southern flank of the Alps it will turn colder. Temperature at 2000m: 3 degrees; at 3000m, -7 degrees. Moderate to strong southwesterly winds this morning, strengthening this afternoon on Main Alpine Ridge and in foehn-exposed lanes to strong-to-stormy.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Caution ongoingly urged towards fresh snowdrift

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