



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

Avalanche danger above treeline often considerable, beware fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is still directly contingent on wind impact, it is frequently considerable above the treeline; below that altitude generally moderate; in furthestmost northern regions, low. The major peril stems from freshly accumulated snowdrift which on steep lee slopes can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In the typical foehn-exposed lanes snowdrift accumulations also occur below the treeline. Where there is little wind influence, conditions are often quite good, on the other hand. Only in very steep, shallow-snow terrain can isolated transitions from shallow to deep snow be released as slab avalanches by large additional loading, particularly above approximately 2300m on W/NW to N to E/NE facing slopes; above about 2700m in other aspects as well. In southern East Tirol where snows are deepest, full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes are still a threat.

SNOW LAYERING

The loosely packed snowfall from Tuesday has been transported by winds. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are poorly bonded with the loosely packed powder snow beneath them, their proneness to triggering high. Weak layers are evident in the old snowpack: faceted crystals and depth hoar beneath thin crusts; however snow analysis has shown that fractures in these weak layers are rarely propagated, avalanches are expected only in very steep terrain and only through large additional loading.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Overcast, wet weather, poor visibility and persistent snowfall will create relatively uncomfortable conditions in the mountains today, particularly in western regions of North Tirol and in South and East Tirol. About 5cm of snowfall is anticipated in northern regions, 10-20cm along the Main Alpine Ridge, 20cm in the Dolomites. From Innsbruck towards the Lower Inn Valley, foehn-induced bright spells and no precipitation. Temperature at 2000m: -1 degree; at 3000m, -8 degrees. Moderate southerly to southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Unchanged: fresh snowdrift is trigger sensitive. Newly arising winds will continue to produce new accumulations.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe