



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

Caution urged in foehn-exposed terrain, fresh trigger-sensitive snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The wind is the architect of avalanches, and it currently reigns supreme. Those regions more heavily impacted by winds have considerable danger above the treeline, below it generally moderate. The major peril is the fresh snowdrift which in very steep terrain can be easily released, both the frequency and the proneness to triggering of the drifted masses tending to increase with rising altitude. Caution urged in foehn lanes, where fresh snowdrift occurs even below the treeline. In wind-protected zones the situation is better: only isolated danger zones, particularly on very steep, shallow-snow slopes above approximately 2300 m in W/NW to N to E/NE facing terrain; above about 2700 m, in all aspects. In southern East Tirol, full depth snowslides remain a threat.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been additional snowfall in the south, whereas the north generally remained dry. In the East Tirolean Tauern: 30 cm; elsewhere generally 10 cm. Regionally varying winds (often strong on the Main Alpine Ridge) have formed freshly drifted masses whose bonding to the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath them (of 14 Jan) is mostly poor, the proneness to triggering tending to increase with ascending altitude. Other possible fracture candidates for slab avalanches are the faceted crystals and depth hoar beneath thin crusts. Stability tests have shown low tendency to fracture propagation, so only a massive impulse would release these layers.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: windy (exposed zones will have strong to storm-strength gusts). Most of the higher peaks in North Tirol will be veiled in cloud and fog as of midday. On and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, dense cloud, storm force winds and 5-10 cm of snowfall which will be intensely transported. Temperature at 2000m: 0 degrees; at 3000m, -4 degrees. Strong to stormy southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

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

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe