



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#); [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#); [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is considerable over widespread areas. Since newly formed snowdrift accumulations have been deposited widespread atop loosely packed fresh fallen snow, or atop surface hoar, avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. even the weight of one sole skier. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects above approximately 2000m. The frequency and spread of danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs require experience in evaluating avalanche hazards.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been about 10 to 15 cm of snowfall in North Tirol and in southern East Tirol. In the Kitzbühel Alps there was as much as 30 cm. High altitude northerly to northwesterly winds were generally moderate, but particularly in high alpine ridgeline areas were blowing above transport velocity. The drifted masses which accumulated as a result were frequently deposited on top of new fallen snow or surface hoar. The bonding of these drifted masses to the old snowpack is poor, the likelihood of triggering avalanches quite high. Inside the old snowpack are often hardened crusts surrounded by faceted, loosely packed snow crystals; but area-wide weak layers are generally lacking.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A northerly airstream is bringing us intermediate high pressure conditions. Tomorrow, Sunday, the next precipitation front will arrive. It will remain wintery. On Monday the following precipitation front will bring further snowfall to Tirol. All in all, however, no great masses of new fallen snow are anticipated. Mountain weather today: Apart from early morning residual cloud on the mountain flanks, most regions will be bathed in radiant sunshine until after midday. Particularly south of the Main Alpine Ridge, skies will often be cloudless. From the Tux Alps to the Kitzbühel Alps, high fogbanks and residual clouds extending as far up as summit level this morning, accompanied by a bit of light snowfall. This afternoon in the Inn highlands increasingly diffuse visibility, dense cloud will move in over the peaks. Tonight more snowfall amidst lots of northwesterly to westerly wind. Temperature at 2000m: -9 degrees; at 3000m, -14 degrees. Moderate northerly winds, but intensifying tonight, especially in the Northern Alps, to strong-to-stormy velocity from the northwest.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will continue to rise due to snowfall and storm-force high altitude wind.

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