



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

Snowfall + stormy northwesterly winds = treacherous situation

AVALANCHE DANGER

The latest bout of snowfall, together with the strong to storm-force winds from the northwest at high altitudes have created a critical avalanche situation in Tirol. The danger level over widespread areas is considerable. The main peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which are still being deposited ongoingly due to persistently strong-to-stormy winds, making an avalanche triggerable even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects, especially above approximately 1800 m. Isolated naturally triggered superficial loosely packed and slab avalanches are also possible. Skiing and freeriding tours require experience in assessing the avalanche situation; the inexperienced are urgently advised not to leave secured ski runs.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in the Arlberg/Ausserfern regions and along the Northern Alps there has been 10-15 cm of snowfall; in remaining North Tirol generally less. The snowfall was accompanied by strong to storm strength northwesterly winds, which led to massive snow transport of both new and old snow, creating trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations over widespread areas. The likelihood of avalanches triggering is particularly high because these drifted masses have frequently been deposited on top of loosely packed fresh fallen snow or atop surface hoar, making the bonding to the old snowpack quite poor. Inside the old snow cover faceted, loosely packed snow crystals often lurk between hardened crusts; however area-wide weak layers are for the most part lacking.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Snowfall and storm winds will initially create inhospitable conditions: moderate snowfall on the northern flank of the Alps and Main Alpine Ridge (10-20 cm are anticipated) most of it in the northwestern barrier zones from Arlberg to Wilder Kaiser. This afternoon the snowfall will come to an end from the west, a bit of sunshine is possible, the wind will slacken off. More favourable in the Dolomites in South Tirol, despite the wind. On Sunday night, renewed snowfall. Temperature at 2000 m, -8 degrees; at 3000 m, -15 degrees. Strong to storm-strength northwesterly winds to start with, this afternoon at moderate velocity from the northwest. Tonight, intensifying westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger will continue.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe