



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

## Treacherous situation, considerable danger for backcountry skiers

### AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions where snowfall was heaviest the avalanche situation is precarious, the danger level considerable. The situation is more favourable only where there is less snow below the treeline, where the wind impact was not so large over the last few days. Caution is urged towards fresh snowdrift, which is easily triggered, most frequently found above the treeline in gullies and bowls and ridgeline terrain. The frequency of avalanche prone locations tends to increase with ascending altitude. On very steep ridgeline leeward slopes (especially SE facing) additional snow transport today could bring about naturally triggered avalanches which reach medium size. Anyone venturing into outlying terrain today should have solid knowledge of assessing avalanche hazards. Drifted, steep slopes should be studiously avoided. In East Tirol, furthermore, caution is urged towards full depth snowslides on steep, grass covered slopes.

### SNOW LAYERING

There was once again snowfall in Tirol, most of it in western and northern regions of North Tirol (10-25 cm; in remaining Tirol maximum 10 cm). The snowfall was again accompanied by very strong to storm-force winds, bringing about massive transport of the new fallen snow. Slab avalanches can currently be triggered with ease at the juncture between the loosely packed, cold fresh fallen snow and the snowdrift deposited on top of it. Furthermore, on shady ridgeline slopes there is surface hoar which provides (unless disturbed by wind) a perfect bed surface for slab avalanches. Triggering the old snowpack, on the other hand, where faceted snow crystals lurk between deeply embedded hard crusts, is unlikely except by large additional loading where the snow is shallow.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: generally poor visibility, light to medium snowfall, heaviest on the northern flank of the Alps, where rather strong winds will prevail this morning, slackening off this afternoon. Snow showers in North Tirol will terminate this afternoon, become more frequent on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000m: -7 degrees; at 3000m -17 degrees. Strong to stormy westerly to northwesterly winds this morning, tapering off this afternoon.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift will remain quite trigger sensitive

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe