



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

At least above treeline, treacherous avalanche situation, considerable danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger, at least above the treeline, is considerable and treacherous due to wide ranging, trigger sensitive snowdrift having been blanketed on Monday by loosely packed powder snow. Avalanche prone situations are thus difficult to spot, including for pros. Slab avalanches can be released even by minimum additional loading in very steep terrain, as a number of avalanches over recent days - triggered by skiers - have demonstrated. This applies particularly to slopes above about 1800m in all aspects, the frequency of danger zones tending to increase with ascending altitude. Defensive conduct is recommended. Only regularly skied-on slopes below the treeline where weekend winds had little influence are more favourable. In southern East Tirol, caution still urged towards full depth snowslides. In addition, today in foehn lanes fresh, small-sized, ridgeline snowdrift on shady slopes requires special caution. On craggy, sunny, extremely steep slopes, innocuous loose sluffs can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

The uppermost snowpack surface is often covered by loosely packed powder. Beneath it lurk snowdrift accumulations from the weekend. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are the borderline between the fresh fallen snow and the snowdrift; but also the surface hoar which is evident not only on shady slopes. The bonding of the snowpack layers is not yet adequate, the proneness to triggering quite high. Embedded inside the old snowpack are thin crusts of faceted snow crystals, i.e. depth hoar, but fracture propagation of a released avalanche is unlikely.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: radiant sunshine to start with, lasting longest in the mountainous regions. In western regions and the peaks of South Tirol cloud will move in this afternoon, impeding the sun somewhat. Temperature at 2000m: -11 to -5 degrees; at 3000m -16 to -11 degrees. In high alpine regions and the foehn lanes, moderate to strong velocity winds, the southwesterly wind becoming incrementally brisker.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Highly trigger sensitive snowdrift will accumulate due to approaching wind

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe