



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

Storm-force southerly winds create precarious avalanche situation

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol remains treacherous, the danger level above 1800m considerable widespread. The major peril stems from fresh snowdrift accumulations; avalanche prone locations are found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects. Frequency and spread of danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. An avalanche can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier. Attention: over the course of the day new, trigger-sensitive drifted masses will be formed by the stormy southerly winds. In addition, small to medium sized avalanches triggered naturally require special attention. Particularly in East Tirol where snowfall has been heaviest, isolated naturally triggered full depth snowslides can be expected below 1800m.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tirol there has been an additional 10cm of snowfall. High altitude southwesterly winds were blowing above transport strength, leading to new snowdrift accumulations forming. The freshly drifted masses were generally deposited atop loosely packed new fallen snow, making them prone to triggering. This snowpack is currently much affected by wind. Windblown or hard compacted zones often lie immediately adjacent to deeply drifted gullies or bowls. Inside the old snow cover are often layers of loosely packed, faceted snow crystals between hardened crusts, which make them possible bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A powerful low pressure zone between Iceland and the British Isles is drawing a southwesterly airstream over the Alps. As tomorrow draws near, a weak disturbance will approach Tirol from the west. Tomorrow, Thursday, an intermediate high will prevail. On Friday, another southerly air current. Mountain weather today: very windy, the Northern Alps variably cloudy, foehn-affected, summits free, with brief sunny intervals. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps, light snowfall, most peaks in cloud, about 5cm of snowfall. Tonight another 5cm of snowfall, most on the Main Alpine Ridge from Ötztal to the Tauern. Temperature at 2000m: -1 degree; at 3000m -8 degrees. Strong to stormy southwesterly winds, slackening off during the night and shifting to westerly to northwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 1800m

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