



**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#); [dp.2 - sliding snow](#); [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

## Beware trigger-sensitive snowdrift above treeline (also lower down in foehn lanes)

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in backcountry Tirol is treacherous as of the treeline, the danger level considerable widespread, below that altitude it is moderate. The major peril continues to stem from massive snowdrifts which formed over the last few days as a result of storm-strength winds. Above the treeline such accumulations are evident in all aspects, most frequently on W to N to E facing ridgeline slopes as well as in gullies and bowls in general. Anyone in outlying terrain needs to heed the signs of wind impact and studiously avoid all freshly drifted masses in steep terrain. Their proneness to triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude. In the southern regions of Tirol where snowfall was heaviest, full depth snowslides are still a threat on steep, grass-covered slopes. Areas below glide cracks in the snowpack surface should be avoided.

### SNOW LAYERING

No one could possibly be surprised: southern East Tirol was once again visited by the heaviest snowfall (up to 30 cm; further north ever less, usually below 10 cm). The storm-force, sometimes gale-force winds architected the snowpack extremely irregularly, creating windblown, hard zones adjacent to deeply drifted gullies and bowls. A bed surface for slab avalanches could be the generally loosely packed, cold powder which has now been covered by the snowdrift. Beware: this snowdrift can be very hard at high altitude, nonetheless quite trigger-sensitive! On south facing slopes around 2300 m altitude there are layers of faceted crystals about halfway deep into the snowpack. Above about 2400 m faceted crystals and depth hoar lie embedded between hardened crusts, to start with on shady slopes, higher up also in other aspects.

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

Mountain weather today: In North and South Tirol a clear tendency towards bright skies from the west. In the lowlands of North Tirol, residual cloud will persist until afternoon. Next to no snowfall. In East Tirol the cloud cover will be more tenacious, peaks will remain shrouded until evening. Temperature at 2000m: -4 degrees; at 3000m: -10 degrees. Light to extremely light northwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Immense caution towards fresh snowdrift still imperative

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe