



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

Fresh, easily recognized snowdrift is main danger, most frequent in the south

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger tends to decrease the further north you move and is still dominated by snowdrift accumulations which formed over the last few days. The danger level in southern East Tirol above approximately 2000m is considerable. Further north the altitude at which that danger level prevails is higher, due to the smaller snow masses which were transported: about 2500 m is the borderline for considerable danger in all aspects, but particularly on NE to E to SW facing slopes and in gullies and bowls. The proneness of fresh snowdrift accumulations triggering increases with ascending altitude. The old snowpack is unlikely to release except by large additional loading in extremely steep terrain where the snow is shallow above about 2400m. Full depth snowslides in Tirol's southern regions where the snow is deepest are still a threat; they can attain medium size. Ski ascents and descents should studiously avoid areas below glide cracks in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there was an additional 10 cm of snowfall in Tirol which, together with recently fallen, cold, loosely packed snow, was transported by strong high altitude winds. Noticeable "snow flags" on summits and ridgelines demonstrated dramatically yesterday just what the snowpack is being subjected to. Snow stability analysis of recent days shows that fresh snowdrift is poorly bonded with the snowpack beneath it; with increasing altitude, the trigger sensitivity increases still more. Weak layers embedded inside the snowpack (faceted crystals near crusts, sometimes depth hoar) are evident, but generally well bonded. No tendency towards fracture propagation was found.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: snowfall will come to an end in the Lechtal and Kitzbühel Alps this morning, cloud will disperse, sunshine will prevail. This afternoon, increasing cloud from the west, possible light snow showers in the Lechtal Alps and Arlberg region, shrouded summits. The peaks on the southern flank of the Alps will remain free, it will stay sunny, some cloud this afternoon on the Main Ridge. Temperature at 2000m: -7 to -2 degrees; at 3000m: -15 to -7 degrees. Brisk westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift remains the major peril, brisk winds will bring about more danger zones.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe