



**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#); [dp.2 - sliding snow](#); [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#)

## Fresh ridgeline snowdrift and full depth snowslides: caution!

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger tends to increase the further you move from north to south. The cause, once again, is to be found in recently formed snowdrift accumulations; they are far more frequent and massive in the south, making the danger level above 2200m there considerable; below that altitude, moderate. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, danger is considerable above 2400m, moderate below that altitude. In the furthestmost north, the danger level is predominantly moderate, below 1600m it is low. Caution urged towards freshly drifted masses on very steep slopes, particularly frequent in ridgeline terrain above the treeline, to begin with on shady slopes, with increasing altitude also on sunny slopes. In the Tux Alps at very least, the surface hoar in shady, ridgeline terrain heightens the proneness to triggering. The upside is, with experience, the danger spots are easy to recognize. More deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are not expected to release except in extremely steep terrain by large additional loading, especially where the snow is shallow. Full depth snowslides are still a threat on steep, grass-covered slopes in southern regions, where snowfall has been heaviest.

### SNOW LAYERING

Snow quality is suffering under wind influence. However there is still good powder snow in southern regions below the treeline and in wind-protected zones. A critical weak layer inside the snowpack is the near-to-surface powder which has been blanketed by fresh snowdrift. In the Tux Alps it was reported at mid-week that the surface hoar has now been covered. More deeply embedded layers which are a problem: faceted crystals near buried crusts, generally well bonded, especially in shady terrain above about 2400m, in other aspects above about 2500-2600m.

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

Mountain weather today: sunshine, high clouds, good visibility, mild air add up to fine conditions for skiers and freeriders, as long as they avoid the typical foehn peaks and foehn lanes, where strong, sometimes storm-force southerly winds will be unpleasant. Following a good start, the Main Ridge and Southern Alps will be visited by fog this afternoon. Temperature at 2000m: 0 to +4 degrees; at 3000m: -4 to 0 degrees. Moderate to strong southwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift and full depth snowslides remain the major threats.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe