



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

Main dangers: full depth snowslides and ridgeline snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

Favourable conditions for backcountry tours reign by and large. The danger level in southern regions where snowfall has been heaviest is moderate; further to the north, moderate above 2000m; below that altitude, low. Highest caution is urged towards full depth snowslides which can release on steep, grass-covered slopes, usually indicated by glide cracks in the snowpack surface, although the timing of their release is unpredictable. For that reason, it is advisable to avoid areas beneath such surface cracks. Elsewhere, on W-NW to N to E-NE facing ridgeline slopes above approximately 2000m, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations could release small slab avalanches, in isolated cases triggerable by minimum additional loading. Fractures in deeper layers of the snowpack are now possible only in isolated cases in extremely steep terrain where the snow is shallow above about 2300m. On extremely steep, sunny slopes, isolated loosely-packed avalanches are likely.

SNOW LAYERING

Significant problem layers in the snowpack are found in the uppermost, near-to-surface layers at the borderline between loosely-packed powder and fresh snowdrift. In quite isolated cases, layers of faceted crystals formed on a previously moist snowpack in very steep, south facing terrain at about 2500m on Saturday. Yesterday's solar radiation stabilised the snowpack sufficiently, however, so that this layer is not an imminent threat. In general, the extremely dry air prevents the snowpack from becoming overly moist. A deeply embedded weakness in the snowpack is the layer of faceted crystals adjacent to embedded crusts, but it is currently not hazardous.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: outstanding weather both north and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, lots of sunshine, superb visibility, above-zero temperatures to just over 2000m, little wind. Temperature at 2000m: 0 degrees; at 3000m -6 degrees. Light to moderate high altitude winds, in the foehn lanes somewhat brisker, from south-to-southeast.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Generally favourable conditions will continue

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