



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.10 - springtime scenario](#); [dp.2 - sliding snow](#)

Springtime situation: favourable in morning, rising daytime danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Classic springlike conditions prevail for backcountry touring. Favourable conditions will prevail in North Tirol this morning, mostly low avalanche danger; in East Tirol, due to deeper snow and gliding avalanche hazards, moderate as of about 2400m; elsewhere, low danger. During the morning, caution urged mainly towards gliding avalanches on steep, grassy slopes and the peril of falling on the hard-frozen snowpack surface on very steep, sunny slopes. As of midday, the danger level increases to moderate in general. As the snowpack becomes increasingly wet, isolated wet avalanches, in some cases also wet slab avalanches (esp. E/W slopes at 2400m) will release in extremely steep, sunny terrain. Gliding avalanches continue to be a threat. The moister the snowpack becomes, the more likely such releases become. With good timing, perfect conditions can be enjoyed, the firn snow which forms is superb.

SNOW LAYERING

A night of clear skies and very dry air led to good outgoing radiation which firmed up the snowpack surface. On sunny slopes at low and intermediate altitudes as well as on very steep, sunny slopes at higher altitude, there is a melt-freeze crust widespread which is capable of bearing loads. During the day, the crust will soften up, the snowpack lose its firmness, especially at low and intermediate altitudes. The dry air is a positive factor, also the moderate high altitude winds, both of which slow down the process of snowpack-moistening. Striking weak layers which threaten slab avalanches are currently found in very steep, west-to-east facing slopes at 2400m: faceted crystals adjacent to melt-freeze crusts.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: perfect skiing and mountain weather, full of sunshine. The very dry air creates unparalleled visibility, the zero-degree level will climb to nearly 3000m. On sunny slopes, firn forms; on shady slopes the snow is often near-to-powdery. Temperature at 2000m, +5 degrees; at 3000m, -1 degree. Light to moderate easterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springtime conditions will persist, including daytime danger cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe