



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.10 - springtime scenario](#); [dp.2 - sliding snow](#); [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Springlike conditions amidst rising daytime danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation is springlike, contingent on the time of day: until late morning favourable conditions prevail, the danger is low; in East Tirol, moderate danger below about 2400m due to more snow and peril of gliding avalanches; elsewhere, low. As diffuse solar radiation increases, the snowpack will moisten more rapidly today than in recent days, thereby losing more of its firmness. The danger level below about 2700m then rises to considerable (3) as of midday. In E/S/W aspects below about 2700 m wet loose avalanches can release in extremely steep terrain. On very steep E-NE to S to W-NW facing slopes slab avalanches can release particularly where the snow is shallow. In addition, gliding avalanches can release at any and all times, usually indicated by glide cracks in the snowpack surface. In sunny and wind-exposed zones, more favourable conditions prevail due to the slower moistening process. The rule of thumb: the higher and the earlier you go, the better the conditions.

SNOW LAYERING

Skies were clear and star-studded for most of the night, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads formed. However the snowpack beneath the crust on E-NW to S to W-NW facing slopes below about 2700 m, as well as at low altitudes in general, is moist or thoroughly wet. The softening of the melt-freeze crust causes the snowpack to lose its firmness and become more prone to triggering. Slab avalanches of recent days released most often in spots where the snow was shallow on very steep east and west facing slopes, more seldom on south facing slopes. Older, faceted crystals and layers which were well bonded until now are forfeiting more and more firmness as water penetrates the snow cover, i.e. becoming trigger sensitive again. There will be firm once more today on steep, sunny slopes. Powder is still found in wind-protected, shady zones above about 2000 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: The peaks will still be free this morning, however visibility is already quite diffuse in the Northern Alps in particular as a result of dense, high altitude cloud. This afternoon the summits will withdraw into the cloud and winds will intensify. On the northern flank of the Alps by this evening at latest, light snow showers will set in. On the Main Alpine Ridge, visibility will initially be good, but by afternoon cloud will move in there as well. Most persistent sunshine - but also strongest wind - will be on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000m, 0 degrees; at 3000m, -5 degrees. Strong, over the day intensifying northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Following an overcast night, favourable conditions at high altitudes in particular.

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