



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#); [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#); [dp.2 - sliding snow](#)

Amidst heavy snowfall, significant rise in avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

As a result of intense snowfall, Tirol's avalanche danger level has increased to considerable over widespread areas. Along the Main Alpine Ridge in case the snowfall persists, the hazards could reach level 4 (high) this afternoon. The major peril stems from fresh fallen snow which is often poorly bonded with the old snowpack surface, making avalanches triggerable even by minimum additional loading. In addition, bed surfaces are forming inside the new fallen snow itself. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects, frequency and size of the danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours make experience in assessing the avalanche situation imperative. Furthermore, naturally triggered gliding avalanches are possible in all aspects.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night in Tirol, intensive snowfall set in; the snowfall level was initially at 1600m, then dropped to below 1000 m. On shady slopes the new fallen snow has often been deposited atop a hard-compacted old snowpack surface; in some places the surface is loosely packed, making the bonding to the fresh fallen snow poor and the proneness to triggering quite high. On sunny slopes, the new fallen snow has been deposited atop a moistened old snowpack surface. At higher altitudes, the touchpoint between the relatively warm old snowpack and the rather cold fresh fallen snow can form a thin layer of faceted, unbonded crystals.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure zone with its centerpoint over northern Italy is bringing late winter weather including cold and snowfall to Tirol. On Tuesday and Wednesday, this low pressure zone will still prevail, but conditions will improve. Later in the week, a high may gain the upper hand and springtime conditions return. Mountain weather today: deep winter! The peaks are shrouded in dense fog, ongoing snowfall is expected to persist, sometimes at moderate, sometimes at high intensity. As much as 50 cm of fresh fallen snow could accumulate over the course of the day from place to place; even more on the Main Zillertal Ridge and in the high East Tirolean mountains. Temperature at 2000m, -4 to -8 degrees; at 3000m, -9 to -14 degrees and falling. Generally light northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger widespread

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