



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

Increasing avalanche danger through the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is subject to a daily cycle: in early morning the danger level is generally low, then rises during the course of the day as the snowpack loses its firmness to moderate. Isolated avalanche prone locations for slab avalanches are found most often in extremely steep, shady and ridgeline terrain above 2600m. Below about 2600m the snowpack rapidly softens, naturally triggered loose moist sluffs and wet avalanches are the result; they usually remain small but can sometimes attain medium size. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain should be brought to a close early in the day. Particularly in East Tirol, imminent gliding avalanches threaten wherever glide cracks are visible on the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

Skies were partially clear during the night, outgoing radiation of the snowpack was adequate. Particularly on steep east to south to west facing slopes, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads was usually able to form. The crust will soften this morning due to solar radiation and daytime warmth, the entire snowpack forfeit its firmness. On sunny slopes the snow cover is thoroughly isothermal up to about 2800m (constant temperature of 0°) on steep, south facing slopes to over 3000m. On shady slopes at higher altitudes the snowpack there are hard-compacted surfaces and breakable crusts; in wind-protected zones there is still loose powder.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure zone over the central Mediterranean is bringing mild and moderately humid air masses to Tirol; the high is weakening, encouraging rainfall over the weekend. Mountain weather today: good conditions continue, sunshine will dominate in the early part of the day. High altitude cloudbanks will thin out, the summits be in the clear. This afternoon, increased build-up of convective cloud, particularly on the southern flank of the Alps between Ortler and Lienz Dolomites, as well as high altitude cirrostratus cloud. Heavily overcast south of the Main Ridge tonight; in the northern Alps, partly cloudy, partly clear skies. Temperature at 2000m, +6 degrees; at 3000m, -1 degree. Light to moderate southeasterly to easterly winds, brisk to strong to begin with in the Tux Alps but soon tapering off.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger starts low, rises during the day

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe