



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

Favourable backcountry touring conditions in the morning

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. Particularly in East Tirol, imminent gliding avalanches threaten wherever glide cracks are visible on the snowpack surface, danger level moderate due to reduced nocturnal outgoing radiation.

SNOW LAYERING

Skies were mostly clear during the night, outgoing radiation of the snowpack was sufficient. 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. The situation is less favourable in East Tirol: skies were overcast last night, so a melt-freeze crust could not form.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure zone over Italy is bringing mild, moist, instable air masses to Tirol. As Sunday nears, a weak precipitation front will move along the Alps. On Monday, an intermediate high. Mountain weather today: In the Northern Alps and on Main Ridge, quite pleasant conditions this morning, accompanied by a few rain showers and local thunderstorms, snowfall level at 2200m. In East Tirol's mountains and the Dolomites, overcast this morning, tending to improve this afternoon amidst light north-foehn winds. Temperature at 2000m, +7 degrees; at 3000m, -1 degree. Lght easterly to northeasterly winds, somewhat stronger towards the Hohe Tauern.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

After an overcast night, moderate avalanche danger in the morning

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe