



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#); [dp.3 - rain](#); [dp.10 - springtime scenario](#)

Mostly moderate avalanche danger, to some extent considerable this afternoon

AVALANCHE DANGER

The highly variable April weather is having great effect on avalanche danger levels. Below about 2400m the danger in early morning is generally moderate, above that altitude it is low. During the day, the danger level often increases to considerable below about 2500m. Avalanche prone locations are found especially in very steep W/NW to N to E/NE facing terrain with shallow snow. The greatest peril comes when the sun comes out and the snowpack becomes thoroughly wet; then even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release a slab avalanche. At high altitudes, in addition, small-sized drifted masses require caution on shady ridgeline slopes, where surface hoar formed on the snowpack before the recent snowfall (Nigg effect) making the snowdrift trigger-sensitive. Further, small, loose avalanches are possible in craggy terrain; and gliding avalanches particularly in southern East Tirol.

SNOW LAYERING

Mixed skies last night, cloud cover move in from the west after midnight, bringing isolated light showers and rainfall up to about 2100m. This permitted only minimum outgoing radiation of the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes and inadequate consolidation. Today the melt-freeze crust is breakable or the snowpack moist. It is better frozen in widespread areas of East Tirol. One major threat is a weak layer near the ground from early winter composed of faceted crystals or depth hoar, especially on W/NW to N to E/NE facing slopes between 2000 and 2500 m. It threatens to trigger wherever the snowpack is moist or wet.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: quite passable conditions, usually good visibility, but rainwear should not be lacking in your backpack since this afternoon showers are possible everywhere (snow showers above about 2000m). Tonight, a bit of snowfall is possible. Temperature at 2000m, +3 degrees; at 3000m, -4 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

More favourable conditions at high altitudes. As weather conditions get better, the avalanche situation will also improve.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe