



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1](#) - deep persistent weak layer; [dp.8](#) - surface hoar blanketed with snow; [dp.10](#) - springtime scenario

Favourable morning conditions widespread, beware fresh ridgeline snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is predominantly moderate. Isolated danger zones for dry slab avalanches are found on extremely steep, shady slopes and in ridgeline areas above approximately 2000m. Freshly accumulated snowdrift masses more than anything else are quite trigger sensitive and can in some places be released as avalanches even by minimum additional loading. Below about 2600 m the loss of firmness due to snowpack moistening requires caution: even in the morning, naturally triggered wet and gliding avalanches can be expected, most of which are small, but a few of which can reach medium size.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours above approximately 2000m there was up to 10 cm of snowfall from place to place. Northwestern winds intensified, thus transporting the fresh fallen snow and forming new, small-sized snowdrift accumulations at high and high-alpine altitudes. In shady, ridgeline terrain, in addition, blanketed surface hoar requires special prudence. Below about 2600 m, the snowpack is thoroughly moist far and wide. Since the snowpack fundament there is often composed of faceted snow crystals, the loss of firmness calls for great caution.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The intermediate high pressure zone is deteriorating, from the northwest a cold front is sweeping over the Alps, bringing strong winds and noticeably lower temperatures until Tuesday which will cause snow showers down to low lying areas. Mountain weather today: quite sunny this morning accompanied by fresh northwesterly winds in ridgeline terrain. The winds, together with the gradually increasing cloud cover from the north as harbinger of the approaching cold front, will take the northern flank of the Alps into their possession by this afternoon. Conditions will subsequently turn stormy, visibility deteriorate and snow showers set in. In the Southern Alps it will remain pleasant even this afternoon, although windy. Temperature at 2000 m, +3 dropping to -1 degree; at 3000 m, -7 degrees. Strong to storm-strength westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowfall and wind will heighten avalanche danger in northern barrier zones.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe