



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - cold, loose, new fallen snow and wind](#); [dp.9 - graupel blanketed with snow](#)

Snowfall and stormy northwind increase avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Snowfall and storm strength northerly winds have increased avalanche danger levels: above approximately 1800m the danger is considerable widespread. The major peril stems from freshly accumulated snowdrift masses which are inadequately bonded to the old snowpack and thus, can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes and ridgeline terrain in all aspects, the frequency and magnitude of the danger zones tending to increase with altitude. In very steep starting zones, naturally triggered superficial loose avalanches can be expected today. Backcountry touring possibilities are quite limited today, such tours require experience in evaluating avalanche hazards.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday afternoon snowfall set in across widespread areas of Tirol. In the typical northern barrier zones there was 20-30 cm of fresh fallen snow; along the Main Alpine Ridge and on the East Tirolean Tauern Ridge, more. The snowfall was accompanied by strong to storm strength northerly winds, which transported the new fallen snow over vast areas. This resulted in trigger sensitive snowdrift masses accumulating. At the onset of the precipitation there was graupel falling; consequently, both new fallen and newly drifted snows were deposited atop a layer of graupel which is prone to triggering. A further potential bed surface for avalanches is the touchpoint between loose, fresh fallen snow and the snowdrift lying on top of it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A severe cold front traversed the land last night, sinking temperatures a good 10 degrees. Tirol lies in the path of a northerly jetstream which is accumulating barrier cloud on the northern flank of the Alps and raising northerly foehn winds on the southern flanks. Mountain weather today: wintery conditions, light to moderate snow showers, heaviest in the northern Limestone Alps, Zillertal and Kitzbühel Alps and on the Tauern Main Ridge. From Samnaun over the southern Ötztal Alps to the Brenner Pass, bright intervals are expected. Sunshine, strong northerly winds in the Dolomites and Carnic Alps. Cold. Temperature at 2000 m, -7 degrees; at 3000 m, -15 degrees. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger widespread

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe