



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

Beware fresh snowdrift near ridgelines!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is moderate widespread; along the Main Alpine Ridge it is considerable from place to place. The major peril stems from older and fresh snowdrift accumulations which are often inadequately bonded with the old snowpack surface, making it possible to trigger avalanches even by minimum additional loading in some cases. Avalanche prone locations are found particularly in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects above approximately 2200m as well as in extremely steep, shady terrain. Frequency and magnitude of danger zones increase with altitude. In extremely steep starting zones, isolated naturally triggered superficial, loose avalanches can be expected over the course of the day.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there was an additional 20-30 cm of snowfall in the western sector of the Northern Alps, the southern sector of the Ötztal and Stubai Alps and on the main ridge of the Zillertal Alps; in the other regions, less. Thus, in the last 2 days there has been 30-50 cm of new fallen snow, most of which fell in the northern barrier zones. High altitude northerly winds have slackened off somewhat, but were blowing at above transport velocity at high altitudes, thus bringing about freshly accumulated snowdrift masses. Both older and fresh snowdrift was frequently deposited on top of loose, fresh fallen snow, in isolated cases atop graupel, with poor bonding, thus making the drifted masses relatively easy to trigger.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol is wedged between a low pressure zone southeast of the Alps and a high pressure zone over northwestern Europe, in the path of an eastwards-moving, moist jetstream coming from the northeast. The southern flank of the Alps is being favoured by northerly foehn winds. Mountain weather today: On the southern flanks, apart from the Main Ridge, sunny, foehn-induced, windy conditions. In the inneralpine regions from Nauders to the Ötztal Alps, weather will improve over the course of the day. From Wetterstein to the northern flanks of the Tauern, persistent fog amidst light snow showers. Temperature at 2000 m, -5 degrees; at 3000 m, -13 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds; on the Main Ridge and southwards thereof, strong northerly foehn wind.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Moderate avalanche danger widespread

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe