



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1](#) - deep persistent weak layer; [dp.9](#) - graupel blanketed with snow; [dp.10](#) - springtime scenario

Caution! Increasing avalanches in high and high-alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche activity has risen markedly: at high altitudes and in high alpine regions the danger level is frequently considerable (3). Below about 1800 m, as well as in northwestern regions, the danger level is frequently low. In case of intense, diffuse solar radiation or rainfall (which makes the advancing wetness of the snowpack drastically increase) even a "tense" level 3 could be reached up to high altitudes. Increasingly frequent avalanches during the last 3 days corroborate this heightened alarm level. Generally, wet avalanches have released immediately following the snowfall on extremely steep slopes, to some extent medium-sized, in isolated cases even large-sized slab avalanches, particularly on W to N to E facing slopes above approximately 2500 m. Large additional loading is generally necessary to trigger large-sized slab avalanches, e.g. the impulse of a loose avalanche or small, superficial slab releases.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is deteriorating massively and rapidly. However, at high altitude and in high alpine regions, particularly along the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, there is still a great deal of snow which is becoming increasingly wet down to the ground by variable April weather conditions. Faceted layers near the ground which until now were quite stable are swiftly becoming prone to triggering. In addition, graupel grains have been deposited repeatedly over the last few days which have formed a seriously weak layer on the uppermost surface of the snowpack, especially above approximately 2500 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Dense cloud and moist air masses have reached Tirol. Particularly in the Tirolean uplands and in the Vinschgau, Friday was heavily overcast accompanied by repeated rain showers throughout the day, the snowfall level hovering around 2000 m. Between Brenner and Innsbruck and eastwards thereof, as well as in East Tirol, it will still be dry during the morning, accompanied by some bright spells and a bit of sunshine. In the afternoon, rain showers will reach there as well, along with a few thunderstorms. On Friday night, the snowfall level will drop down to 1500 m in North Tirol. Lowest temperatures will be 5 to 9 degrees; highest 10 to 15 degrees; in Lienz, 18 degrees; in Bolzano, 17 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Generally unfavourable avalanche situation at high altitudes and in high alpine regions to begin with. In case of major changes, updates will be published.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe