



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Snowfall-plus-wind creating very trigger-sensitive snowdrift above the treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger levels above the treeline are considerable over widespread areas; below the treeline, predominantly moderate; in some places, low. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations above the treeline. Strong winds have increased the frequency of avalanche prone locations since yesterday, which are difficult to recognize due to poor visibility. Because of the low temperatures, the drifted masses are brittle, i.e. easily triggered. Avalanche prone locations are found in all aspects, occurring often in steep, west to south to east facing ridgeline terrain. In addition, a trigger-sensitive old snowpack, especially in the regions south of the Arlberg, Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps still threatens. Particularly where the snow is shallow, i.e. in transitions from shallow to deep snow, even minimum additional loading can release a slab avalanche. Caution particularly urged on shady slopes between 2000 and 2600m; on sunny slopes above approximately 2300m.

SNOW LAYERING

There was about 10 cm of snowfall last night in Tirol (excluding southern East Tirol) amidst low temperatures; in the Arlberg region and Ausserfern there was up to 20 cm. In addition, strong winds arose at high altitudes, transporting the lightweight new fallen snow. Slab avalanches can most easily trigger at the borderline between snowdrift and cold powder. Inside the old snowpack, particularly south of Arlberg, Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps, between embedded crusts, there are still faceted crystals. Settling sounds ("whumpf" noises) and stability analysis still demonstrate heightened proneness to triggering, despite a slow process of improvement. Least favourable is the snowpack in the Tux Alps, poorly layered in shady, forest terrain.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: poor visibility, heavy snow flurries in the northern regions. Tonight, conditions will improve. On Wednesday, another 40 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated in the Northern Alps; less on the Main Alpine Ridge; southwards therefrom, due to foehn effects, it will become increasingly drier, the clouds less dense and visibility better. Temperature at 2000m, -10 degrees; at 3000m, -17 degrees. Strong northwesterly winds; brisk, northerly foehn winds in South and East Tirol.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No change in the scenario

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