



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

Beware slight daytime cycle: rising danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation is slowly improving, relaxing, today we will be subject to a slight daytime cycle which requires attentiveness. Above the treeline the danger level is still considerable, below that altitude moderate widespread. Avalanche prone locations are found on very steep, shady slopes above the treeline, particularly in those regions where recent snowfall has been heaviest and the snowdrift accumulations can still be triggered by minimum additional loading. In addition, slab avalanches can threaten primarily above approximately 2300m on steep, sunny slopes. Especially in transitions from shallow to deep snow, avalanches can release in the old snowpack. The likelihood of triggering will tend to rise over the course of the day, as the snowpack becomes increasingly moist. Heavily frequented routes are far safer than less frequented ones this winter. On very steep, grassy slopes where snowfall has been heaviest, in addition, isolated gliding avalanches threaten.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack settled significantly in yesterday's beautiful weather, thus beginning the process of stabilization. Snow quality has deteriorated, however; on sunny slopes melt-freeze crusts are now prevalent. Weak layers inside the snowpack are still threatening: surface hoar on shady slopes, particularly near the treeline and above it; faceted layers or depth hoar which are interspersed between buried crusts, especially on sunny slopes above approximately 2300m and shady slopes below about 2600m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: perfect weather for snow sports, unimpeded sunshine, outstanding visibility. In addition, much milder than in recent days (although the valleys are still filled with cold air masses). Zero-degree level at 2500 m in very dry air; at 2000m, +4 degrees; at 3000m, -3 degrees. Light easterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will slowly subside.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe