



**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

## Beware fresh drifts above the treeline

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above the treeline considerable danger prevails; below that altitude, moderate danger; at low altitude, low danger. Most hazardous are the freshly and recently formed snowdrift accumulations, most of them small-sized. During the course of the day, particularly in northern regions, northerly winds together with snowfall will continually create new drifts, primarily deposited in steep ridgeline O-S-W facing terrain above the treeline, where they can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. The drifted masses from earlier in the week are likely to trigger only above approximately 2300 m in very steep ridgeline terrain. However, very steep shady slopes from the treeline up to about 2300m still need to be assessed very critically. Particularly in those zones, which until the recent snowfall were wind-protected, can inner layers of the snowpack release even with minimum additional loading in some places.

### SNOW LAYERING

Once again, snowfall far and wide in Tirol, especially in northern regions where since yesterday there has been 10-20 cm of fresh fallen snow. As temperatures drop and northerly winds intensify, slab avalanches can most likely release at the borderlines between loose powder and the snowdrifts deposited atop it. Both proneness to triggering and increasingly wide distribution of danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. A fracture inside the snowpack near the faceted crystals of the old snowpack is most possible on shady slopes between the treeline and about 2300 m, as well as in transitions from shallow to deep snow in general. Depth hoar is evident in those zones, which could propagate fractures further.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: repeated snowfall, amounting to 10-20 cm over the course of the day. Visibility often impeded by fog and cloud, strong winds in open terrain. Southern Alps will remain dry for the most part, and there will be intermittent sunshine. Temperature at 2000m, -10 degrees; at 3000m, -17 degrees. Strong northerly winds, stormy in high alpine regions.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Situation will begin to improve.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe