

Avalanche Bulletin of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Monday, 23.03.2015, at 07:30 Uhr





DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.10 - springtime szenario dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer

Springtime scenario - snowpack moistening, avalanche danger rising

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is contingent on altitude but also on the time of day. Below approximately 2200m in Tirol's eastern regions, moderate danger prevails during the morning, above that altitude the danger is low. Elsewhere the danger, at least during the morning, is low. During the course of the day the danger level increases in all regions as the snowpack softens and becomes wet. Below about 2400m it frequently reaches the level considerable; above that altitude, moderate. The major hazards stem from wet, loose-snow, slab and gliding avalanches on sunny, steep slopes. As solar radiation intensifies (stronger near residual clouds) and daytime warmth takes hold, the snow cover deteriorates more and more, forfeiting its firmness. Subsequently the likelihood of slab avalanches triggering in steep terrain increases drastically, as does the probability of naturally triggered avalanches. At high altitudes conditions are more favourable, winds tend to slow down the moistening process. Danger zones for slab avalanches are rare, primarily in very steep terrain at altitudes of about 2300m in the inneralpine regions. Recently formed snowdrift accumulations in shady, high alpine ridgeline terrain are also threatening.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover is becoming increasingly moist or thoroughly wet, at lower altitudes melting away before one's eyes. Up to about 2100m the snowpack in all aspects is moist down to the ground. On sunny slopes the wet snowpack extends to higher altitudes, is also contingent on the slope's steepness gradient. The meltwater deteriorates the firmness of embedded depth hoar and faceted crystals as it seeps into the snowpack, making the snow cover looser overall. In extremely steep terrain, wet, deep-fracturing loose snow avalanches are possible.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: from place to place on flanks up to approximately 1500m visibility is impeded by high fogbanks. Elsewhere sunshine reigns, light winds, excellent visibility from the summits. Zero-degree level at about 2300m. Temperature at 2000m, +2 degrees; at 3000m, -5 degrees. Light winds, mostly southerly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Following a night of clear skies, morning conditions tend to be better. Beware daytime cycle!

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe