

## **Avalanche Bulletin** of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Thursday, 26.03.2015, at 07:30 Uhr





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

# Moderate danger below 2300m; considerable danger in southern East Tirol and above 1800m

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in most of Tirol is being determined by the thoroughly wet snowpack; in southern East Tirol also by the noticeable amount of fresh fallen snow. Below about 2300m, moderate danger generally prevails; above that altitude, the danger level is mostly low. In southern East Tirol the danger level, due to marked amounts of fresh fallen snow (up to 50 cm), is considerable above approximately 1800m. Below that altitude, danger is moderate. Slab avalanches can frequently be triggered in W/N/E facing terrain below approximately 2300m even by the weight of one sole skier. In addition, loose-snow avalanches can easily sweep along the entire wet snowpack in extremely steep terrain below about 2100m. In other parts of Tirol the major peril stems from the thoroughly wet snow cover. Superficial, hardened crusts atop loose, wet old snow could release below about 2000m in all aspects, between 2300 and 2000m particularly on E/S/W facing slopes (avalanches are most likely on east and west facing slopes). In high alpine regions, in addition, small, freshly formed drifts in very steep, shady ridgeline terrain require special caution.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack did not cool off during the night, thus the surface remains moist below about 2300m. The new fallen snow, particularly in the southern regions of Tirol (generally 10 cm in southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps; 20 cm in northern East Tirol; up to 50 cm in southern East Tirol) tends to preserve the moisture. Also on north facing slopes the snowpack is becoming increasingly moist up to at least 2000m, making it prone to triggering. A bed surface is provided by nests of depth hoar near the ground and faceted snow crystals whose bonding to the layers closer to the surface is deteriorating due to the wetness. In high alpine regions, surface hoar at the uppermost layers on shady, steep slopes can also serve as a bed surface where freshly formed, usually small-sized snowdrift accumulations can fracture.

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

Mountain weather today: fog, intermittent snowfall, receding temperatures. In the western regions of Tirol it will remain mostly dry this afternoon. Further east and in the mountains of East Tirol, snowfall will continue, bringing 5-10 cm of new fallen snow (up to 20 cm in Lienz Dolomites and the East Tirol and Zillertal sectors of Main Alpine Ridge). Temperature at 2000m, -2 degrees; at 3000m, -6 degrees. Light northwesterly winds, intensifying noticeably tonight.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The major danger is wet snow at low and intermediate altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe