

Avalanche Bulletin of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Friday, 27.03.2015, at 07:30 Uhr





DANGER PATTERNS (DP): <u>dp.10 - springtime szenario</u> <u>dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer</u> <u>dp.2 - gliding snow</u>

Considerable avalanche danger above, moderate below 2300m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Below about 2300m the danger is considerable. Above that altitude it is moderate. The major peril stems from the accumulating wetness of the snowpack and the loss of snowpack firmness which is the result. Avalanche prone locations are found most frequently below about 2300m on very steep W/SW to N to E/SE facing slopes, where slab avalanches can be triggered even by the weight of one sole skier. In addition, in extremely steep terrain in all aspects loose-snow avalanches can release, particularly where the snowpack is thoroughly wet. Naturally triggered loose-snow avalanches can be expected during the course of the day in those regions of Tirol where snowfall has been heaviest as a result of diffuse radiation. Loose-snow avalanches can then sweep along the old snowpack and create additional perils for skiers and freeriders. With ascending altitude the conditions tend to become more favourable. Above approximately 3000m, however, small, freshly formed ridgeline snowdrifts are a threat. Also, on steep, grass-covered slopes isolated gliding avalanches can release.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover became increasingly wet yesterday as a result of rainfall and diffuse radiation, sometimes thoroughly wet, particularly on shady slopes below about 2300m. The water seepage down to deeper, loosely packed layers of the snow cover has an especially infavourable effect on its stability: previously good bonding between layers is dissolved, the resulting proneness to triggering is especially marked on shady slopes. The rule of thumb is: loose, faceted layers including nests of depth hoar near the ground increasingly provide bed surfaces for slab avlanches in those places where the snowpack is very wet, i.e. particularly below about 2300m (W/SW to N to E/NE aspects are likelier to trigger than south facing slopes).

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: impeded visibility due to cloud and fog, repeated bouts of snowfall bringing about 5-15 cm of new fallen snow (focal point Arlberg and Northern Alps). Between Ortler and Brenta, cold northerly winds will bring about better conditions; further east, more unstable weather. Temperature at 2000m, -6 degrees; at 3000m, -12 degrees. Strong, sometimes storm-strength NW winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

A brief spell of favourable conditions in early morning today. Main hazard: wet snowpack.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe