



**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.3 - rain](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

## Increased avalanche danger due to rain, snow and wind

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger today is contingent not only on altitude, but also on time of day. In the furthestmost western regions the danger during the morning hours below about 2000m is already considerable; above 2000m, moderate. In the remaining regions the danger is initially moderate below about 2000m; between 2000 and 2800m it is low; above 2800m it is moderate. Two threats loom today: the rainfront moving in from the west will make the snowpack below 2000m thoroughly wet, weakening it overall. The danger below about 2000m will be heightened to considerable. As rainfall intensifies, the steep slopes (primarily W/N/E facing) will suffer naturally triggered avalanches. The second threat is the freshly accumulated snowdrift: perilous initially above about 2800m for the most part, but as snowfall sets in and temperatures drop the drifted masses lower down are also endangered by release. At high altitudes even the weight of one sole skier is enough to trigger them.

### SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack below about 2000m is very moist already, up to 2800m in places on sunny slopes. Surface layers are often melt-freeze, at lower altitudes breakable crusts. The loosely packed layers of depth hoar and faceted crystals near the ground could serve as bed surfaces for potential slab avalanches. Due to water seeping down to the deeper layers, the snowpack will forfeit its general firmness. At high altitudes stormy winds will create new snowdrift accumulations. The layers between the loosely packed new fallen snow and the drifted masses beneath it could serve as bed surfaces for fractures.

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

Mountain weather today: stormy winds, particularly in the Northern Alps. Mostly dry this morning, visibility not too bad. As of midday, cloud cover will become dense, precipitation will set in from the west. Snowfall level about 1500m. In the Southern Alps cloud will move in but it will remain largely dry until this evening. Temperature at 2000m, +1 degree; at 3000m, -5 degrees. Increasingly strong westerly winds, stormy in Northern Alps.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Danger levels are rising.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe