

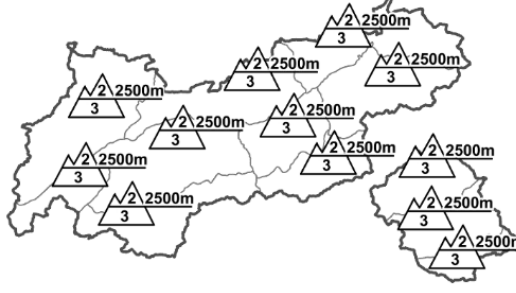









Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 11.04.2015 07:30 MORNING		Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 11.04.2015 07:30 AFTERNOON		Tendency tomorrow  constant
				
WHAT? - problem  persistent weak layer	WHERE? - danger spots  2300m shallow snow	WHAT? - problem  wet snow	WHERE? - danger spots  2500m increasing	General Level Tyrol 

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.10 - springtime szenario](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Avalanche danger swiftly rising during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is once again subject to a daytime cycle. In the early morning hours the danger level is generally moderate, below about 2500m rapidly rises to considerable over the course of the day. The snowpack is moist to an increasing degree, often thoroughly wet, due to diffuse solar radiation, high daytime temperatures and forecast rainfall. On very steep W/E slopes, particularly at 2200-2500m, on south facing slopes at 2600m, slab avalanches can trigger naturally which can easily reach medium size. Also on shady slopes, the likelihood of slab avalanches is heightened, although probably not triggering naturally. This applies especially to zones between 2300 and 2800 m where the snow is shallow in steep terrain. In addition, wet-snow avalanches and gliding avalanches will surely be observed this afternoon. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours the rule of thumb is: the earlier you start (and finish) your tour, the better the conditions are.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack cooled off somewhat during the night but not as much as in recent days. At low and intermediate altitudes the melt-freeze crust which formed is thus fragile and breakable; above approximately 2400 m it is often capable of bearing loads on steep slopes. The major peril lies in the increasing moistness/wetness of the snowpack, which causes it to lose its firmness. Near the ground are layers of faceted snow crystals, currently bonded with each other, but forfeiting their cohesive hold as water seepage increases down through the snowpack (areas where snow is shallow are of course affected sooner than elsewhere). In addition, at altitudes of about 2800 m there are thin layers of faceted crystals near the surface beneath a thin melt-freeze crust; in isolated cases they can serve as a bed surface for potential slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: the air is moister, clouds have hindered the nocturnal cooling effect, the snowpack was unable to reclaim its firmness. Today a mixture of intermediate altitude cloud, gradually building convective cloud with a few windows of sunshine. Local tendency towards showers, particularly this afternoon (snowfall above 2000m). Visibility often impaired by clouds, fogbanks and haze. Temperature at 2000m, +2 degrees; at 3000m, -5 degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Following overcast nights the snowpack cannot regain firmness at low and intermediate altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe