



Avalanche Info

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 31.12.2015, at 07:45 Uhr



Low avalanche danger persists - next update 04.01.2016 at latest

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions remains low. Danger zones where slab avalanches could trigger are rare, most likely at high altitudes in very steep gullies and bowls in shady aspects, where in isolated cases small, hardened snowdrift masses could be triggered by large additional loading. In general, the peril of injury from rocks or glacial crevasses is far higher than from avalanches.

SNOW LAYERING

Snow depths are still below average, severely limiting possibilities for skiing and freeriding tours. The (comparatively) best conditions are found in high alpine regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the furthestmost western part of North Tirol. The snow cover manifests very little internal tension, its structuring varies with altitude and aspect. Sunny slopes below about 3000 m are enduring a melt process down to the ground, with hard snowpack surfaces; above approximately 3000 m the melt-freeze crust is capable of bearing loads, beneath which is a layer of faceted snow crystals. Shady slopes, on the other hand, generally have a loosely-packed, faceted snowpack, at high altitude usually blanketed by a wind crust which is more or less capable of bearing loads. Slab avalanches can currently be triggered only where such thick wind crusts prevail, beneath which depth hoar lurks.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A frontal system is moving into Austria from the west and will fasten on the northern flank of the Alps, bringing the recent phase of dry, mild weather to an end. Forecast for the next few days: the Alps will be struck by a series of fronts coming from the west which will bring repeated snowfall, at least to North Tirol. On Saturday, skies will be overcast, but it will remain dry to start with. On Saturday night, rainfall and snowfall will set in anew, possibly bringing 10-20 cm of fresh fallen snow (rain below about 1000m) to the mountains of North Tirol. The next front is expected to arrive on Monday.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche scenario. The next update will be published at latest on 04.01.2016.

DANGER PATTERNS (DP)

[dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe