



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Treacherous situation: considerable danger widespread above treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above the treeline, a critical borderline grade of Danger Level 3 prevails. That means: slab avalanches continue to be easily triggerable, even by minimum additional loading, in steep terrain in all aspects. Beware the old snow problem, increasingly evident above the treeline on W/NW to N to E/NE aspects where snowdrifts have been deposited atop loosely-packed ground level layers of snow which can be easily triggered. On shady slopes, remote avalanche triggerings are also possible, thus caution on flat terrain beneath them is imperative. In addition, the fresh snow also threatens in all aspects, especially behind terrain protruberances, in gullies and bowls. As a result of yesterday's snowfall, which fell with little wind influence at the end, danger zones are now covered and very difficult to recognize. In the western regions where snowfall was heaviest, as well as in the western sector of the Northern Alps, furthermore, gliding avalanches are possible on steep, grass-covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday there was further snowfall in many parts of Tirol, amidst slackening wind. Avalanche prone locations have thus been frequently covered by loosely-packed powder snow. Reports from backcountry skiers, snow profile analysis and avalanches involving persons confirm the highly unfavourable snowpack layering which currently is evident above the treeline: at ground level, loose layers surrounded by crusts (a weak layer which could provoke a slab avalanche); stability tests frequently show very inadequate bonding with the snowdrifts lying on top of the snowpack. Elsewhere, the recent fresh fallen snow, now blanketed by drifts, can also serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches in all aspects (but especially threatening in E/S/N aspects).

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: the fresh fallen snow of the last few days will sparkle in the sunshine today, the last residual cloud from the Rofan to the Kitzbühel Alps will soon disperse. Temperatures will rise slightly. Restraint is urged in outlying terrain, always heeding the latest Avalanche Bulletin warnings. Temperature at 2000m, -18 to -10 degrees; at 3000m, -20 to -17 degrees. Light to moderate N/NW winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The critical backcountry situation continues.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe