



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

Beware snowdrifts at high altitude, old snow where snowpack shallow.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger has receded somewhat due to higher temperatures: above 2300m often considerable; below that altitude, moderate; below the treeline, low. Southern East Tirol, which has much less snow, is more favourable. Avalanche prone locations are found where snowdrifts have accumulated, beginning at about 2300m. With ascending altitude, the proneness to triggering as well as size and spread of these drifts tend to increase. However, with experience in on-site assessment of risks, the danger zones can be spotted and circumvented. What is harder to evaluate are the weakened layers near the ground, bed surfaces for slab avalanches. These are primarily found above 2300m in shady terrain; above 2500m in sunny terrain. Inneralpine regions, e.g. Ötztal, Stubai, Tux and Zillertal Alps are more at risk with this problem than other regions. Beware spots where the snow is shallow, that's where an avalanche can trigger most easily. Gliding avalanches on steep, grass-covered slopes are still possible where snowfall has been heavy.

SNOW LAYERING

Snowpack analysis yesterday showed a rapid process of stabilisation of the snowdrift accumulations of the day before, only partly prone to triggering. Elsewhere, the loose ground-level layers interspersed with crusts show a certain improvement, but large additional loading can still trigger avalanches where the snow is shallow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: both north and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, increasingly windy, but sunny. Cloudbanks are high above the summits, usually thin, visibility is quite good. It is mild (zero-degree level at 2500m), temperature at 2000m, +2 degrees; at 3000m, -4 degrees. SW winds will increase in strength as the day unfolds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New snowdrifts from the current winds.

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