



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Fresh, trigger-sensitive drifts from stormy winds. Old snow problem above 2300m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger above 2100 is considerable, below that altitude moderate; below the treeline low. Two problems threaten: transported snows from the stormy winds at high altitudes, to start with, many of which are prone to triggering, beginning as of 2100m, increasing in sensitivity with ascending altitude, triggerable even by the weight of one sole skier. Then, above 2300m at ground level: weakened snow, triggerable where the snow is shallow also by minimum additional loading. Numerous releases have most often come from these layers. On shady slopes the risk begins at 2300m, on sunny slopes at 2500m. The regions of Tux, Stubai, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps are most at risk, even remote triggerings have occurred. Avalanches that fracture down to these layers can become quite large.

SNOW LAYERING

Storm force wind and approaching precipitation will form new drifts. The most recent fresh fallen snow is a weak layer, increasingly sensitive with ascending altitude. The ground level layers of the snowpack are the classic danger this winter, esp. in the inneralpine regions, but also in East Tirol, where the problem is not quite as grave. Yesterday's avalanches confirm how trigger-sensitive the entire snowpack is, including tendencies toward fracture propagation.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: storm! In the Northern Alps the high altitude cloud will disperse intermittently, a bit of sunshine is possible. On the Main Alpine Ridge and Southern Alps, barrier cloud and overcast skies. Tonight, some snowfall is anticipated. Temperature at 2000m, -2 degrees; at 3000m -5 degrees. Storm to gale-force southerly winds, slackening off this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Experience in assessing dangers on-site AND restraint are imperative!

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe