



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

Risks: snowdrift at high altitude, old snow in southern East Tirol, inneralpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is dependent on altitude and on region. Least favourable are the conditions in inneralpine regions (Tux, Stubai, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps, but also in southern East Tirol) where the ground-level layers are loosely-packed and the shallow-snow spots can easily be triggered (even by one person's weight). Inneralpine regions above 2300m on shady slopes, above 2500m on sunny slopes, are particularly at risk. In southern East Tirol, the problem on shady slopes begins above the treeline. Elsewhere, especially at altitudes above 2300m, the recently formed snowdrift accumulations require caution, particularly in ridgeline terrain, very steep, wind-protected slopes and, in general, behind sharp terrain protruberances. With increasing altitude, the proneness of drifts triggering tends to increase. The fresh fallen snow (which fell with little wind influence) makes danger zones difficult to recognize. In the remaining parts of Tirol, conditions are more favourable, the hazards mostly moderate, below the treeline, low.

SNOW LAYERING

Variable conditions, mild temperatures, winds have had great impact on the snowpack. Drifts which formed below 2300m have now bonded well with the snowpack beneath them; above that altitude, they are still trigger-sensitive. The major danger stems from the ground-level layers of the snowpack, primarily in inneralpine regions and southern East Tirol. The flat, wide distribution of these layers means that avalanches which trigger could grow to large size. In isolated cases, remote triggerings are possible in flat terrain.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: the peaks are fending off clouds and fog. This morning, light snow showers and a few bright intervals, most pleasant in the mountains of South Tirol. This afternoon, cloudier, snowfall is more likely. Temperature at 2000m, -6 degrees; at 3000m, -12 degrees. Light winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowdrifts are gradually bonding with the snowpack.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe