



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

Briefly, a treacherous backcountry situation above 2000m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The climax of avalanche danger has passed, following the passing through of a cold front during the night. Nonetheless, above 2000m the avalanche scenario is highly treacherous for backcountry skiers and freeriders (upper borderline Danger Level 3). Below 2000m, danger is generally moderate. The major peril threatens from fresh and recently formed snowdrift accumulations above the treeline. Due to shifting winds, avalanche prone locations occur in all aspects, especially in gullies, bowls, behind protruberances and near ridgelines. Their proneness to triggering increases with ascending altitude. Particularly in the Tux, Stubai, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps, as well as in southern East Tirol, the additional risk of the old snow still threatens. With large additional loading, e.g. if fresh drifts should release or a loose-snow avalanche spontaneously trigger, the entire snowpack down to deeply embedded layers can be swept away, especially on shady slopes above 2400m (above 2200m in southern East Tirol; in the other aspects above 2600m). Such avalanches can grow to large size.

SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday evening, impressive amounts of new fallen snow have been registered in Tirol. Top rank was won by southern East Tirol and the southern Stubai and Ötztal Alps, 30-60 cm. In the other regions there was generally about 20 cm; in northeastern regions 10cm. Initially stormy winds soon slackened off, so that snow transport was moderate. Weak layers threatening slab avalanches are the recently fallen, loosely-packed fresh snow which is now blanketed over by snowdrifts. In inneralpine regions and in southern East Tirol, furthermore, weak layers near the ground require caution. At high altitude, caution urged towards hardened slabs.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: wintery ambience, cold, frequent snowfall, the peaks often hidden in cloud, poor visibility. This afternoon from the Lechtal Alps into Paznaun, some bright intervals. In the Carnic Alps and Lienz Dolomites snow showers will increase this afternoon (5-10 cm of new fallen snow). Temperature at 2000m, -10 degrees; at 3000m, -16 degrees. Light, occasionally moderate strength W/SW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Situation will continue to improve.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe