



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#) [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#)

Special caution on shady slopes above 2000m: treacherous old-snow problem!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The danger in Tirol is dependent on region and altitude. West of the Kitzbühel Alps, considerable danger reigns above about 2000m; elsewhere the danger is generally moderate, beneath 2000m it is often low. What is most treacherous about the current situation is the striking old-snow problem. This affects more than anywhere else steep, shady slopes above 2000m where slab avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading; in isolated cases can be remotely triggered even from flat terrain. The old-snow problem also affects sunny slopes, beginning at about 2300m, on south-facing slopes at about 2600m. Particularly the shallow-snow spots in very steep terrain can release slab avalanches. Generally at the present juncture, large additional loading is necessary to fracture avalanches down to ground level layers; these can grow to dangerously large size. In high alpine regions, caution urged towards the small-sized, freshly-formed snowdrift masses near ridgelines on very steep, shady slopes. In addition, snow on steep, grass-covered slopes can slide away in gliding avalanches. These are frequently 'announced' by glide cracks on the surface.

SNOW LAYERING

The major problem continues to be the strikingly weak ground-level layers inside the snowpack. It affects shady slopes above 2000m most of all. It consists of faceted-crystal snow and/or depth hoar which lies embedded between a series of crusts, all of which is deeply embedded. On sunny slopes, the problem begins above 2300m. In addition, snowpack analysis has revealed the danger pattern cold-atop-warm on sunny slopes. The faceted-crystal layer on sunny slopes is particularly acute at altitudes of about 2500m. On sunny slopes, the snowpack surface usually has a thin melt-freeze crust, on shady slopes there is still good powder.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: not merely sunny in the mountains, but cloudless skies, dry air and outstanding visibility. Somewhat warmer in the mountains than in the valleys during the morning. Temperature at 2000m: -6 to -1 degree; at 3000m, -8 to -5 degrees. Moderate southerly winds, blowing at brisk to strong velocity in the classic foehn lanes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The situation is not expected to change significantly.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe