



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.5 - snowfall after a long period of cold](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Main danger: fresh, trigger-sensitive snowdrifts above 2000m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above 2000m, considerable danger prevails in Tirol; below 2000m, moderate danger; in southern East Tirol, low danger. The major peril stems from freshly formed, often quite extensive and highly trigger-sensitive snowdrifts. Most of the avalanche prone locations are found in the furthestmost western and eastern regions of Tirol above 2000m, particularly on shady slopes, the proneness to triggering increasing with ascending altitude. In addition, the old-snow problem above 2300m has become more acute as a result of the weight of drifts on top of the snowpack, particularly on W-N-E facing slopes, but increasingly frequently on NW-N-NE facing slopes. The trigger-sensitivity of the snowpack was demonstrated yesterday by natural triggerings and avalanches unleashed by skiers. Whoever ventures into outlying terrain needs, at very least above the treeline, extensive avalanche knowledge to evaluate the perils on-site. Continuing gliding avalanches on steep, grass-covered slopes at low and intermediate altitudes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow quality is often poor: melt-freeze at intermediate altitude, above that altitude the snowpack is intensely wind-impacted. Still strong winds at high altitude, still transporting masses of snow, still forming new snowdrift accumulations. These are highly trigger-sensitive, esp. on shady slopes above 2300m, since they have been deposited atop faceted-crystal snow. Caution: when fresh ridgeline drifts are triggered that sit atop loosely-packed new fallen snow, the slab avalanches can break through to deeper layers and - particularly in western regions - grow to dangerously large size.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps, still stormy foehn wind which is holding off the precipitation on the other side of the Main Alpine Ridge until this afternoon. Nevertheless variably cloudy to heavily overcast, some of the peaks will be hidden in cloud. In the regions around the Main Rige, poor visibility, light snowfall, also between Ortler and East Tirol this afternoon. Tonight along the northern flank of the Alps, a few centimeters of new fallen snow anticipated. At 2000m: 0 degrees; at 3000m: -7 degrees. Strong to stormy southerly winds, slackening off this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The main danger still lies in the recently formed snowdrift accumulations

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe