



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

## Dangerous drifts above 2200m, esp. W/N/E slopes

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is dominated by foehn influence and the warm temperatures. Above 2200m the danger is often considerable; below 2200m moderate. In southern East Tirol, danger remains low. Unfavourable conditions prevail for backcountry skiers and freeriders due to poor snow quality and avalanche threats. The major peril stems from recently formed, sometimes highly trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations above 2200m, most easily released as slab avalanches in shady terrain. In the furthestmost western regions, isolated naturally triggered avalanches possible today. In addition, a potential old-snow problem begins as of 2300m on W/N/E slopes, particularly where the snow is shallow, triggerable frequently by minimum additional loading, and fracturable down to ground-level layers. At low and intermediate altitudes, modest gliding avalanche problem still persists.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowdrifts are currently the decisive factor, at very least above 2200m where they are prone to triggering. This is especially the case on shady slopes where the snowpack surface has transformed intensely to faceted-crystal snow since last weekend. Snowpack analysis shows - and recent avalanches prove - its high likelihood of triggering. Above 2300m in the old snowpack are still trigger-sensitive layers near the ground, esp. on W/N/E slopes (on south-facing slopes a small zone around 2500m). The danger pattern: cold atop warm since mid-January. Stability tests have brought highly varied results. The old snow problem is most threatening at 2400-2700m. Snow quality: moist snowpack at low altitude, melt-freeze at intermediate altitude, wind-impact at high altitude.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: on the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps, a few bright intervals, then new barrier cloud from the south. As of midday, deteriorating visibility, cloud cover, some snowfall. In the Northern Alps, a few hours of foehn, dispersing cloud, strong winds. During the afternoon, the next perturbation will arrive and bring snow showers from west and south. At 2000m: -4 to -1 degree; at 3000m: -10 to -7 degrees. Strong to stormy W/SW winds at high altitude.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The snowdrifts will remain prone to triggering

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe