



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.5 - snowfall after a long period of cold](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

New fallen snow and winds: considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The combination of fresh fallen snow and high altitude winds have increased avalanche danger, which is now considerable over widespread areas. The major peril stems from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations which can be triggered as avalanches. They are poorly bonded with the old snowpack and thus, can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In isolated cases, these avalanches can sweep away the snowpack down to groundlevel layers and grow to dangerously large size. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes and ridgeline terrain above 2000m, mostly on W/N/E slopes. Also the transitions from deep to shallow snow should be evaluated carefully. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours demand experience in assessing the dangers on-site.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night in Tirol there was snowfall widespread. In southern East Tirol 15-20 cm of fresh fallen snow was registered, in the remaining regions of North and East Tirol, 5-10 cm. High altitude winds shifted to N/NE and reached transport strength, particularly in ridgeline terrain. Thus, new, trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations were formed. New fallen and newly drifted snow masses from the most recent period of precipitation were deposited on a melt-freeze crust on sunny slopes, on shady slopes atop a loose old snowpack surface. The weak fundament inside the old snowpack merits great caution, particularly on shady slopes between 2200 and 2800m there are frequently ground-level layers of loose, unbonded snow crystals.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a low over northern Italy is determining today's weather in the Alps. Masses of moist Mediterranean air are lodged against the the alpine barrier in northeastern regions of Tirol; the southern flank of the Alps has better weather conditions, amidst northern foehn influence. Mountain weather today: dense, many-layered cloud cover shroud the peaks in fog, visibility is poor, backcountry skiers need to consider this. Light to moderate snowfall. All in all there will be 10-20 cm of snowfall by evening, heaviest in the Kitzbühel and Tux Alps. On the southern flank of the Alps, only a few centimeters. Temperature at 2000m: -6 degrees; at 3000m: -11 degrees. Moderate NE winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede only slowly.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe