



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

Heightened avalanche danger: fresh snowdrifts

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions has risen slightly: below 2200m it is moderate widespread; above 2200m it is considerable regionally. The main peril stems from fresh snowdrift accumulations which can be triggered as avalanches even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier. Avalanche prone locations occur on steep slopes above 2200m, particularly on W-N-E slopes, and in terrain adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects. Heightened caution is still necessary in transitions from deep to shallow snow. In steep, sun-drenched terrain, isolated superficial loose-snow avalanches can trigger naturally.

SNOW LAYERING

As a result of strong southerly winds yesterday, especially in the classic foehn lanes, fresh snowdrifts accumulated which are often poorly bonded with the loosely-packed old snowpack surface beneath them, making them quite prone to triggering. In addition, the old snow problem in inner alpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge still lurks invisibly: ground-level layers are composed of faceted-crystal snow; thus, if avalanches trigger they can fracture deeply and then grow to dangerously large size.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: southeast of a low over Luxembourg, the Alps still lie in the clutches of a S/SW airstream full of foehn wind. This low will weaken by next week, which will open the way for a high over Scandinavia. Mountain weather today: on Main Alpine Ridge and in the mountains of East Tirol, heavily overcast skies and light snowfall. During the daytime, some improvement in conditions, although fog will persist at summit level. Elsewhere a sunny day in the mountains. At 2000m: -2 degrees; at 3000m: -7 degrees. Moderate S/SW winds, strong to stormy in the Tux Alps and western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will slowly recede.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe