



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

Firn on some steep, south-facing slopes. Beware old-snow problem above 2400m.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is predominantly moderate, below 2300m frequently low. Least favourable are the conditions in the southern Ötztal Alps, where the danger above 2400m continues to be considerable. That is where the striking old-snow problem is most threatening (above 2400m). Slab avalanches can be triggered, particularly on W-N-E facing slopes where the snow is shallow, by large additional loading. Even remote triggerings are possible from flat terrain in isolated cases. Avalanches which fracture in the old snow can grow to dangerously large size. In the remaining regions of Tirol, the danger zones where the old snowpack can be swept along are less frequent than in the southern Ötztal Alps. However, caution is urged especially in very steep, shady terrain above 2400m (in southern East Tirol above 2000m). During the day as a result of solar radiation, isolated wet-snow avalanches are possible in extremely steep terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack on south-facing slopes is generally stable. Through the alternating levels of moistness in the course of the daytime cycle and nocturnal cooling the snowpack has a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads on very steep, south-facing slopes up to at least 2300m. During the daytime this transforms to firn. In the other aspects above 2400m, in southern East Tirol above 2000m, the potential old-snow problem begins to threaten. On shady slopes, but increasingly frequently also on west and east facing slopes, there are loosely-packed layers of snow which formed in January which are still prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: super conditions north and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, cloudless skies all day long, lots of sunshine, mild temperatures (zero-degree level at 2800m). At 2000m: 5 degrees, at 3000m -1 degree. Light to moderate southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

General avalanche situation is slowly improving, but the old-snow problem persists.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe