



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

Heightened avalanche danger due to snowfall and storm winds

AVALANCHE DANGER

This morning, low danger still prevails below 2200m; above 2200m moderate danger; above 2500m considerable danger. The anticipated snowfall and stormy winds will then raise danger above 2200m to considerable in general. The major peril stems from the fresh and recent snowdrifts. They are particularly threatening on shady, very steep, untracked slopes above 2200m and in general in freshly drifted ridgeline terrain at high altitude. Caution urged on sunny slopes at 2600-2800m, where since last week a thin weak layer has formed. Snowdrifts will become more massive during the course of the day today, more widespread, and more prone to triggering. In addition, on very steep, shady slopes above 2500m, especially where recent snowfall has been heaviest, medium-sized avalanches can trigger naturally this evening.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack was superficially moistened at low and intermediate altitudes on steep, sunny slopes in particular from yesterday's warmth. A melt-freeze crust has formed in the interim. At higher altitudes the greatest impact came from wind. On shady slopes there is still powder in places, which is a potential weak layer for the snowdrifts. In addition, inside the snowpack weak layers of faceted-crystal snow lurk, particularly on sunny slopes at 2600-2800m; on shady slopes starting at 2800m

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Very turbulent and stormy conditions today. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps it has begun to snow; showers will also visit the Lechtal and Allgäu Alps this morning (above 1500m). Elsewhere in North Tirol it will remain dry (foehn-induced) until later on, with variably cloudy skies. This evening it will become overcast, a brief round of heavy precipitation is expected. The snowfall level will rapidly drop to 1000m, during the night even lower.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrifts remain the biggest danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe