



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.10 - springtime szenario](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

Springtime conditions: predominantly favourable in morning, rising daytime danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Conditions in Tirol's backcountry regions are for the most part favourable. Only in the Ötztal, Stubai, Zillertal and Tux Alps is the danger above 2400 m moderate, due to the potential old-snow problem and threatening layers at ground-level. On very steep, shady slopes isolated slab avalanches can be triggered, mostly where the snow is shallow and barely tracked by large additional loading. During the daytime, danger rises due to the increasing wetness of the snowpack - to moderate below 2800m. Skiers and freeriders can then trigger wet slab snowslides in extremely steep terrain. Isolated wet-snow avalanches are also possible on sun-drenched, steep slopes in the 2500m altitude zone, where the snowpack is thoroughly wet.

SNOW LAYERING

The automated measurement stations register good nocturnal outgoing longwave radiation of the snowpack. Thus, on sunny slopes a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads has formed up to high altitudes. This crust stabilises the snowpack which has very moist layers more deeply embedded inside it, sometimes is even quite wet. The ground-level layers are the least stable of all. As the melt-freeze crust softens, moistens and melts during the course of the day, these layers weaken still further. On shady slopes, stability tests have shown that inneralpine regions also have these weakened ground-level layers consisting of encrusted depth hoar above 2400m; they can be triggered and the fracture could then propagate further.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Thursday will bring good weather for winter sports: high altitude cirrus and convective cloud, somewhat denser in the Wilder Kaiser and Kitzbühel Alps region, but generally sunny. The zero-degree level will ascend to nearly 3000m. At 2000m: +7 degrees; at 3000m: -1 degree. Light-to-moderate W/NW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springlike conditions are expected to continue, including a daytime danger cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe