



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

Avalanche situation becoming increasingly critical, considerable danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is critical over widespread areas. The major peril lies in the fresh - and also older - snowdrift accumulations which have not been able to consolidate. It is generally possible to trigger an avalanche even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier. Danger zones are found most of all on steep, shady slopes and in ridgeline terrain in all aspects. Frequency and spread of the avalanche prone locations increase with ascending altitude. Isolated naturally triggered superficial loosely-packed avalanches are possible in steep avalanche paths.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been another 30-50 cm of fresh fallen snow registered in the Arlberg/Ausserfern region, along the Northern Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps. The three-day summation of snowfall lies at 1 meter and more. In inneralpine regions and along the East Tirolean Tauern Ridge there was 20-30 cm of new fallen snow registered. Brisk to strong northerly winds have transported the snow widely. The snowdrifts were deposited atop loose new fallen snow and are poorly bonded, making them prone to triggering. Most of all in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge, the weak layering of the old snowpack requires a high degree of caution. This applies mainly to shady slopes at 2400-3000m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the relevant high/low is withdrawing towards the Balkan peninsula. More cold, moist air masses are being pushed towards the Alps from the northeast. Tomorrow, Thursday, the air from the northeast will slowly become drier, but remain cold. Mountain weather today: wintery conditions prevail, with more than a meter of fresh fallen snow since Tuesday in many places. The current avalanche bulletin needs to be heeded! The mountains are often shrouded in clouds and more snow showers are on the way. By Thursday morning, another 5-10 cm of snowfall is anticipated. In the mountains of East Tirol it is nearly dry, but very windy; and bitter cold. Temperature at 2000m: -10 degrees; at 3000m: -18 degrees. Moderate to strong NE winds, blowing at storm strength from the north in the Hohe Tauern.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The critical situation persists, considerable danger

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe