



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

Delicate and treacherous avalanche situation for backcountry tours

AVALANCHE DANGER

Today is a day highly prone to accidents: following heavy snowfall, slackening winds have blanketed the landscape with beautiful powder snow, concealing a highly trigger-sensitive snowpack. Above 2300m, considerable danger prevails, below 2300 m danger is moderate, below the treeline where snowfall has not been heavy danger is low. Several avalanche problems threaten. The preeminent one is the uppermost-layer old-snow problem resulting from the danger pattern known as cold-on-warm (dp 4). Avalanche prone locations are found on north-facing slopes at 2400-2900m, on east-south-west facing slopes above 3200m. Avalanches can be triggered there even by minimum additional loading, then grow to dangerously large size. Above 2300m, the snowdrift problem arises, especially near ridgelines on steep slopes, to start with in shady terrain, in high alpine regions also in sunny terrain. Third, the daytime danger cycle will increase avalanche danger as the day unfolds: solar radiation will bring about numerous loosely-packed avalanches in extremely steep, sunny terrain, also small gliding avalanches on steep, grass-covered slopes. Summary: it is a day when you need profound avalanche knowledge and a high degree of caution and restraint in outlying terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday there has been an additional bump of fresh fallen snow added to the snow cover. Over the last few days above 2000-2200m there has been 30 cm over widespread areas; in the Stubai, Tux, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps, as well as the East Tyrolean Tauern, there was 40-70 cm. The weak layers of faceted-crystal snow near the melt-freeze crusts are the problem inside the snow structure, formed last week and now covered by fresher snow. The threat is prevalent in the areas and aspects cited above. Ground-level layers are unlikely to trigger except by major additional loading, e.g. a superficial slab avalanche. Further, at high altitude near shady ridgelines, the surface hoar (Nigg effect) and the lightly blanketed powder snow are potential weak layers for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

In the uplands of North Tirol and East Tirol, sunshine will swiftly take a bow and then remain. This afternoon, it will also become more pleasant in the lowlands of North Tirol. Temperatures will begin to rise. At 2000m: from -6 to -1 degree; at 3000m: from -13 to -6 degrees. Light winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche situation will gradually improve

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