



**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

**Wind+snowfall are spiking avalanche danger. Beware blanketed surface hoar!**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The strong winds combined with the snowfall which has already commenced are causing a sharp spike in avalanche danger. Above the treeline predominantly moderate, elsewhere low danger is expected to rise during the course of the day as snowfall becomes more widespread. In northern and the furthest eastern regions of Tirol, where the heaviest snowfall is expected, danger may rise to considerable this evening. This is also due to the blanketed surface hoar, making the snow masses especially easy to trigger. Elsewhere, most of the danger stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, found mostly above the treeline on shady, very steep slopes and at high altitudes in general near ridgelines. In addition, observers have reported increasingly frequent gliding snow masses in the western regions in particular.

### SNOW LAYERING

The most important factors to keep in mind today are the coming snowfall together with wind; and the surface hoar, which was observed particularly in fog-influenced regions and which extends from the valley floor to above the treeline, particularly in northern and eastern regions. It is also there where the heaviest snowfall is expected today: about 20 cm in western regions, as much as 40 cm in eastern regions. Surface hoar will then form a potential weak layer which will be extremely prone to triggering. Furthermore, new snowdrifts will form above the treeline. They will be deposited on a snowpack surface generally riddled with faceted snow crystals. Particularly on shady slopes and in general at high altitudes, they will be quite trigger-sensitive.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

A NW air current with a warm front embedded inside it is bringing moderate snowfall to the northern flank of the Alps which, in late afternoon and during the night in the Kaiser Massif, Steinberge and Kitzbühel Alps, will intensify as time goes on. Poor visibility due to fog and snowfall. Drifting at high altitude. In the Dolomites and Carnic Alps, bright intervals. On the East Tirolean Tauern Ridge, light snowfall. Temperature at 2000 m, -8 degrees, at 3000 m, -13 degrees. Brisk to strong-velocity NW winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Most critical will be the regions where snowfall is heaviest and where there is surface hoar.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe