



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#)

Increasingly trigger-sensitive snow in eastern and northern regions. Beware new drifts.

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the Kitzbühel Alps and the eastern sector of the Northern Alps above about 1200 m, considerable danger prevails. In those regions even one skier can trigger an avalanche in very steep terrain. This is due to the weak layer of blanketed surface hoar. In the other regions of Tirol, the danger is generally moderate; below the treeline, low. During the course of the day, the danger will increase to considerable above the treeline, at very least in the western regions, as a result of snowfall and wind impact. There - as elsewhere - the main hazard is found in recently accumulated snowdrifts. They are increasingly prone to triggering both in shady, steep terrain and in sunny terrain at altitudes between about 2000 m and 2300 m, as well as above 2800 m. In addition, the risks of gliding avalanches in the zones where snowfall is heaviest remain upright.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover is highly irregular. The influence of the recent cold spell has generated faceted snow crystals which have great impact on the ability of the snowpack to bear loads. Melt-freeze crusts are thinner, the snow (especially on shady slopes) is more loosely-packed. With ascending altitude the wind influence increases: on very steep, sunny slopes there are melt-freeze crusts covering the upper surface. The biggest danger comes from the surface hoar which has been covered by newer snowfall, particularly in the Kitzbühel Alps and the mountain ranges on the Bavarian border. Also highly hazardous are the shady slopes with loosely-packed surfaces and superficial weak layers of crusts, the latter found particularly on sunny slopes between 2000 m and 2300 m. Fresh snowdrifts can be easily triggered there.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

A puff of cold air is coming our way. The lower limits of the cloud cover will descend (coming from the NW) and the peaks disappear increasingly into the fog. This morning snowfall is anticipated in the Lechtal Alps (light to moderate), this afternoon in the other regions of Tirol as well. By Saturday morning, about 10 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected; in the Lechtal Alps and Arlberg region as much as 20 cm. Less snow is expected on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: dropping from -3 to -9 degrees; at 3000 m, dropping from -6 to -16 degrees. Strong W/SW winds, shifting to NW this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Rising danger from snowfall and wind

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