



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

### Considerable avalanche danger above 2000 m. Beware snowdrifts.

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

Above about 2000 m considerable danger prevails, below that altitude danger is mostly moderate. The main hazards stem from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations. Fresh drifts require maximum caution at high altitude. Older drifts can trigger mostly on shady, very steep slopes above 2000 m. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, this is also the case on sunny slopes at 2000-2400 m. There, the recently formed weak layers can be triggered particularly by large additional loading. In the regions where snowfall has been heaviest, furthermore, gliding avalanches continue to be observed on steep, grass-covered slopes. They usually “announce” their imminent release by glide cracks in the snowpack surface. We advise avoiding all spots below such cracks.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack surface frequently has splendid powder snow. With ascending altitude, however, the negative wind impact makes itself felt. The freshly formed snowdrifts at high altitude can be triggered. The weak layer is the loosely-packed, now blanketed powder snow. Avalanche prone locations are easily recognized. What is more difficult is to perceive the dangers where old snow has been blanketed by fresh snow. Potential weak layers for old drifts are found on shady slopes above 2000 m, particularly at 2000-2600 m). On sunny slopes, a weak layer has formed with faceted crystals encircling a rain crust from 11 December (danger pattern: cold on warm). This applies particularly to altitudes of 2000-2400 m. The process is most pronounced in central East Tirol, also along the Main Alpine Ridge.

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

Poor visibility for the most part, including a few snow showers as the day unfolds, heaviest in the western mountain ranges of North Tirol: the Silvretta, Arlberg and Lechtal Alps. Between Kitzbühel Alps and Tauern Ridge, little or no snowfall today. Often sunshine in the Dolomites and the Carnic Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: -11 to -8 degrees; at 3000 m: -16 to -13 degrees.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Situation will continue to improve.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe