



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

## Considerable avalanche danger above treeline

### AVALANCHE DANGER

In northern regions of North Tirol moderate danger prevails. In the other regions, considerable danger prevails above the treeline; below that altitude, danger is usually moderate. Two particular problems threaten human safety: old snow and gliding snow. The old snow problem occurs on shady slopes at 2000-2600 m, on sunny slopes at 2200-2600 m. Inside the snowpack there are weak layers which can be triggered even by the weight of one sole person in steep terrain. The other problem is tenacious: gliding avalanches are still possible on steep, grass-covered slopes. In the regions of Tirol where snowfall has been heaviest, e.g. Arlberg, gliding avalanches can release and grow to medium size. Whoever wishes to reach high altitudes on backcountry tours needs to pay special heed to the fresh snowdrifts, especially near ridgelines, in very steep terrain.

### SNOW LAYERING

Snow profiles and snow analysis show a highly diverse, irregular and trigger-sensitive snowpack. Weak layers lie deeply embedded inside the snow cover, e.g. a layer of faceted, unbonded snow crystals which formed at the beginning of December. On shady slopes there is a weak layer which was deposited on 11 December; on sunny slopes the weak layer lies beneath a thin melt-freeze crust. All these layers have heightened proneness to trigger at altitudes of 2200 to 2600 m.

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

Variable, cold mountain weather, accompanied by light snow showers in the Northern Alps in particular, but with fog and clouds shrinking visibility. In the mountain ranges around the Inn Valley, frequent bright intervals are anticipated, a bit of sunshine is likely. More sunshine on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: -8 degrees; at 3000 m: -12 degrees. Moderate northerly winds, colder and brisker on the Tauern Ridge.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change is expected initially.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe