



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

Still considerable danger in East Tirol above 2200 m. Elsewhere mostly moderate danger.

AVALANCHE DANGER

In North Tirol, moderate danger prevails by and large. Below the treeline, danger is partly low. In East Tirol the danger above 2200 m remains considerable, below that altitude it is moderate. The main danger in East Tirol is found in the old snow. Inside the snowpack are weak layers which can be triggered in steep terrain even by minimum additional loading. This is particularly the case at 2200-2700 m and is most likely to occur in transitions from shallow to deep snow. At higher altitudes the likelihood of triggering tends to increase, due to snow depths and hard-compacted snow which the weak layer covers. In North Tirol, on the other hand, the main danger is gliding snow masses on steep, grass-covered slopes. In addition, on shady, relatively untracked terrain where there has been little wind influence, esp. on very steep slopes, slab avalanches can be unleashed by large additional loading. This is the case at altitudes above 2200 m most of all. Whoever wishes to climb to high altitudes will need to exercise special caution towards fresh, mostly small-sized snowdrifts: they are especially prone to triggering.

SNOW LAYERING

Intensive work in outlying terrain and numerous professional reports have helped to create a sharper picture of snowpack stability in Tirol. Least favourable is the snowpack structure in East Tirol, where weak layers of faceted crystals have become reinforced, more so than in those regions of North Tirol where snowfall was heavier. This is especially the case above the treeline. Most likely to trigger is the weak layer at 2200-2700 m. What threatens for the approaching snowfall in most parts of North Tirol and in the northern regions of East Tirol is the shallow layer of very loosely-packed powder which was deposited over the last two days.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Highly variable and still cold mountain weather today. Light snow showers can be expected in the Northern Alps, also fog and cloud cover will reduce visibility. In the mountain ranges wreathing the Inn Valley, bright spells are anticipated, even sunny intervals; but most of the sunshine will be on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: -8 degrees; at 3000 m: -12 degrees. Moderate (and cold) northerly wind at high altitudes, brisker on the Tauern Ridge.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snow and wind will generate extremely trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe