



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

Beware snowdrifts at high altitude, gliding avalanches at low altitude

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol remains considerable over widespread areas. The major hazard stems from recently formed snowdrifts at high altitude. The further up you go, the stronger are the winds, the more wide ranging the avalanche prone locations and the more easily they trigger. At low and intermediate altitudes the snowpack has stabilised due to lower temperatures, but increasingly frequent gliding avalanches are being observed on steep, grass-covered slopes. In the regions where snowfall has been heaviest these gliding avalanches can grow to large size. In central East Tirol and in southern East Tirol the old snow problem is the most pronounced. It is found on shady slopes as of about 1800 m, on sunny slopes as of about 2200 m. Glide cracks and settling noises (whumpf!) are indicators of heightened trigger-sensitivity inside the snowpack. We warn all skiers and boarders: restraint! The inexperienced should stay on secured ski runs.

SNOW LAYERING

Dropping temperatures help to stabilise the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes. At the same time, they form melt-freeze crusts on the surface, sometimes breakable. Thus, the snow quality is poor. Simultaneously, the rainfall is bringing about increasingly frequent gliding avalanches on steep, grassy slopes. At high altitudes strong winds are transporting the snow, the higher you go the more trigger-sensitive the snow is, esp. above 2300 m. Weak layers in the old snow are still found: faceted snow crystals. They are most easily triggered in East Tirol distant from the Main Ridge. In North Tirol, the transition zones from shallow to deep snow above 2200 m are the most delicate.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Strong to storm-strength southerly foehn wind on the northern flank of the Alps is bringing us dry and sunny weather, with a few high altitude clouds. On the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps, low lying clouds will veil the peaks in fog, even some light snowfall is possible above about 1200 m. Temperature at 2000 m: -1 degree; at 3000 m: -3 degrees. Mostly brisk S/SW winds, stormy gusts likely in the classic foehn lanes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Winds are transporting snow anew in the mountains.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe