



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

Moderate danger widespread. Considerable danger on Main Ridge and in East Tirol.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol has receded another notch, is now moderate over widespread areas. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tirol, danger is still considerable above 2200 m. Snowdrift accumulations which formed during the last week can increasingly be triggered by large additional loading, most easily in transition zones from shallow to deep snow above 2200 m. Frequency and size of danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. Naturally triggered avalanches have diminished significantly. Below 2400 m, naturally triggered gliding avalanches still require caution, particularly threatening on steep, grass-covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

Wide ranging snowdrift accumulations from the most recent period of snowfall and storm winds are settling and consolidating to an increasing degree. The snowpack surface at high altitudes shows striking effects of wind; at low and intermediate altitudes, the effects of mild temperatures and rainfall are equally striking. Up to 2000 m the surface is covered in melt-freeze crusts in the early morning hours, then loses its firmness over the course of the day due to daytime warming and some solar radiation. In East Tirol in particular, there are hardened crusts above 2200 m beneath which lurk thin layers of faceted, loose snow crystals, i.e. an old snow problem.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather. Tirol lies in the path of a high pressure front which stretches from the Iberian peninsula to Scandinavia, with a low pressure front in the Mediterranean. From the east, moderately moist air masses are pressing their way to us. Over the coming few days, the high will gain the upper hand, bringing quiet winter weather conditions until Monday. A few bright intervals are expected in the afternoons. On the southern flank of the Alps, quite sunny, despite some clouds. Temperature at 2000 m: -5 degrees; at 3000 m: -11 degrees. Light to moderate easterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Slowly receding avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe