



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Significantly rising avalanche danger due to blanketed surface hoar

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger will increase significantly during the day today. In the morning the danger above the treeline will be considerable widespread, due to strong winds and the area-wide expanse of surface hoar. Surface hoar is an extremely trigger-sensitive weak layer; as soon as it is blanketed by fresh snow or drifts, the threat becomes real. The forecast snowfall will intensify during the day, increase the number of danger zones further. Fresh drifts in steep terrain should be studiously circumvented, in East Tirol in all aspects, in North Tirol esp. in W/N/E aspects, at high altitudes also in southern aspects. The situation is still favourable wherever there has been no wind, e.g. zones below the treeline. As of this evening, increasingly frequent naturally triggered avalanches can be expected, small to medium in size.

SNOW LAYERING

The decisive criterium for the coming development of avalanche danger is the snowpack surface from before the snowfall set in. Surface hoar is evident over widespread areas. In W/N/E aspects it is pronounced and quite loose. In E/S/W aspects there is mostly encrusted surface hoar found in very steep terrain up to high altitudes, created by the melt-freeze process. The proneness to triggering is far lower there than in W/N/E aspects. As of this afternoon, the loose fresh snow will also constitute a weak layer. Caution: in East Tirol (as a result of fog) the loose surface hoar has also persisted in sunny terrain. Wherever there is surface hoar, there is in shady terrain and in generally flat terrain at very least a metamorphosed snowpack surface. This is an ideal weak layer for the coming snowfall.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Storm. Snowfall. Fog. Thus, inhospitable mountain weather. Snowfall will soon set in widespread, rainfall initially up to over 1000 m, before the snowfall level descends this evening. In the Hohe Tauern 15-25 cm of fresh snow is expected by tonight, and this will be transported by strong winds. Snowfall is expected to continue on Wednesday. Temperature at 2000 m: -4 degrees; at 3000 m: -11 degrees. Stormy westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snow and wind will increase avalanche dangers further. In western regions: to HIGH.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe