



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.9 - graupel blanketed with snow](#)

Increasingly delicate avalanche situation above 1600 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

For backcountry skiers and freeriders, unfavourable conditions prevail widespread: an upper notch level 3! Above 1600 m avalanches can still trigger easily by minimum additional loading in steep terrain. This applies particularly to shady and ridgeline terrain. The proneness to triggering is confirmed by the avalanches released by skiers in the last few days, as well as by ongoing observations of settling noises and fissures in the surface. Caution: especially at the foot of steep slopes, avalanches can be remotely triggered in flat terrain. We advise today a fully defensive strategy in route selection and recommend non-steep tours and non-high altitudes. The snowpack is more stable there, there is often powder to be found. Terrain which has been heavily skied is more favourable. The inexperienced are urgently advised not to leave secured ski runs. The situation in southern East Tirol is more favourable. There are fresh, easily recognisable snowdrifts which are smaller, but can be triggered with equal ease.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been an additional 5-15 cm of fresh snow registered. Above the treeline the snowpack shows pronounced effects of wind, drifts are found in all aspects. These can be difficult to recognize, since the most recent snowfall occurred without wind, thus blanketing the drifts. Inside the snowpack, the following weak layers are potential risks: on W/N/E facing slopes above 1600 m is a layer of faceted crystals, often mixed with surface hoar, which was blanketed on 15 January. Inside the snowfall from 15 January in all aspects there is graupel. Below 2300 m near rain crusts there are faceted crystals which can also trigger in isolated cases.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Slightly better conditions, only light snow showers from the Arlberg regions to the Lechtal and Allgau Alps and in the Northern Limestone Alps. Elsewhere a few hours of dry weather, clouds will disperse. Later on from the west, cloud will move in once again, visibility become diffuse. Quite sunny on the southern flank of the Alps, cloudier in the west as of afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: -10 to -7 degrees; at 3000 m, -17 to -14 degrees. Brisk westerly winds, stronger in the Northern Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Tonight snowfall will set in, accompanied by intensifying winds. The situation in outlying terrain will remain critical.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe