



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#)

High avalanche danger regionally. Treacherous backcountry situation widespread.

AVALANCHE DANGER

In far reaching areas of Tirol, a thoroughly treacherous situation prevails for backcountry skiing and freeriding tours. Most unfavourable of all are conditions in regions west of Wipp Valley, in particular Silvretta-Samnaun, Ötztal and Stubai Alps. Another 30-60 cm of fresh snow has been registered accompanied by strong wind impact. The danger above 1800 m is high; below 1800 m considerable. In the remaining regions of Tirol, the situation is an upper-notch level 3. Particularly in leeward, ridgeline terrain and on very steep slopes where snowfall has been heavy, avalanches can trigger naturally. We expect mostly superficial fractures and medium-sized avalanches, in isolated cases large ones. As the precipitation tapers off during the day today, the likelihood of avalanches triggering naturally will recede. Backcountry skiers and freeriders need to adopt a completely defensive strategy today. The inexperienced are urged not to leave the secured ski runs. Conditions in southern East Tirol are more favourable, although the snowpack can also be easily triggered there.

SNOW LAYERING

More snowfall, including heavy wind impact. In Ötztal and Stubai Alps, as well as in Silvretta-Samnaun and parts of the Northern Alps, there was generally 50 cm of fresh snow registered. In the other regions of Tirol about 20 cm, less in southern East Tirol. Weak layers for slab avalanches are currently found in several places: 1) above 1800 m on W/N/E facing slopes in the metamorphosed snowpack surface including surface hoar from 15 January; 2) at an altitude between 1700 and 2300 m, faceted crystals in the vicinity of rain crusts from 4 and 9 January; 3) in the layer of fresh snow there is graupel and blanketed powder.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Heavy nocturnal snowfall persists from dense cloud, poor visibility on the northern flank of the Alps, extending also into East Tirol. This afternoon a short interim of quiet, precipitation slackening off, slight dispersal of cloud towards the Upper Inn Valley is possible. In the Dolomites and Carnic Alps, cloudy skies to start with, a bit of snowfall, intensifying this afternoon and accompanied by northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: -11 degrees; at 3000 m: -18 degrees. Brisk to strong NW winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Tomorrow the danger will increase further still! We expect a day with intense naturally triggered avalanche activity.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe