



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Fresh snow and wind: increasing avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

This morning, favourable conditions still reign, avalanche danger is mostly low, moderate in the western regions due to already beginning snowfall plus wind (and due to increased gliding avalanche risk). Danger above the treeline will increase to moderate throughout Tirol during the course of the day, due to intensifying precipitation. Only in the regions where snowfall is heaviest (Zillertal Alps and East Tirol) will the danger level rise to considerable above the treeline by this evening. The major peril stems from freshly forming snowdrift accumulations, most easily triggered adjacent to ridgelines, in very steep terrain and on very steep, shady slopes which had little wind impact. Poor visibility makes it more difficult to assess the dangers on-site. Otherwise, the gliding avalanche risks are still present on steep, grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

What matters most for the developing avalanche danger is the layering of the snowpack on which the fresh snow and drifts are deposited. It varies greatly. On sunny slopes and at low and intermediate altitudes there is often a melt-freeze crust, usually breakable, in some places capable of bearing loads. Above the treeline the wind impact is pronounced. In shady bowls at 1800-2800 m there are faceted crystals in the uppermost layers. In those places the wind-transported fresh snow can be most easily triggered over the next few days. In addition, blanketed fresh powder snow harbors a weak layer for small slab avalanches for a short period.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

This morning from Sellrain to Kitzbühel Alps it will be dry (foehn-induced) for a few hours, with widespread cloudy skies above summit level. Elsewhere, from Vorarlbert and simultaneously on the Main Ridge, snowfall and fog will move in. By this afternoon, it will cover the land. Most of the fresh snow is expected between Zillertal Main Ridge and Tauern and in southern East Tirol. In addition, temperatures are dropping significantly: at 2000 m, from -4 to -7 degrees; at 3000 m, from -11 to -14 degrees. Brisk to strong W/SW winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Main danger: new snowdrift accumulations

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