



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

Caution: recently formed snowdrifts are easily triggered

AVALANCHE DANGER

To start with: Whoever ventures into outlying terrain where snowfall has been heavy or wind impact strong indispenably requires solid knowledge of avalanche science. Avalanche danger above 2000 m is considerable, below 2000 m moderate widespread, in southern East Tirol low. Above 2000 m there are many avalanche prone locations, namely, snowdrift accumulations formed over the last few days. Wherever it is steep, slab avalanches can be triggered with ease by minimum additional loading, as not only snowpack analysis has demonstrated, but more to the point, numerous reports of settling noises and avalanches triggered by skiers and boarders. Avalanche prone locations are found in all aspects. Special caution is urged towards the new danger zones on steep W and E-facing slopes at 2200-2400 m, and on very steep south-facing slopes above 2400 m, where weak layers have recently formed. We recommend a high degree of restraint during descents on very steep slopes. Far better to descend on much-skied terrain, or go on backcountry tours in East Tirol. Furthermore: in the zones influenced by yesterday's rain on extremely steep slopes, wet-snow sluffs can trigger. Also, gliding avalanches can trigger on steep, grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack above the treeline shows pronounced effects of wind above the treeline; and striking effects of rain below 2000 m. The greater danger is the wind influence, which has generated wide ranging snowdrift accumulations and deposited them on top of several weak layers: faceted snow crystals surrounding melt-freeze crusts on west and east facing slopes at 2200-2400 m; on south-facing slopes above 2400 m; surface hoar; loose, very light snowflakes on shady slopes above 2000 m. Snowpack stability tests show a heightened proneness to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Overcast skies from the start, although most of the clouds are above summit level. Inneralpine regions as far as the Main Alpine Ridge may get a bit of sunshine thanks to a slight foehn tendency. The ceiling of the fog in North Tirol lies between 800 and 1300 m. During the afternoon, cloud cover will move in from the north and in the northern Limestone Alps and Arlberg region snowfall will set in by evening, the snowfall level descending gradually. In the mountains of East Tirol it will remain dry, but overcast. Temperature at 2000 m: 0 to -2 degrees; at 3000 m: -5 degrees. Brisk westerly to southerly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Strong southerly-southwesterly-westerly winds will generate more snowdrifts at high altitude.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe