



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

Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is considerable over widespread areas above 2200 m. The main danger stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations of recent days. These drifts have often been deposited on top of weak layers of loosely-packed crystals (beneath crusts) and surface hoar, can thus be triggered by minimum additional loading. Even the weight of one single skier or boarder is enough. Below 2200 m the danger of gliding avalanches triggering naturally still requires caution. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain currently require much experience in assessing avalanche dangers on-site.

SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack is for the most part well structured. No fractures in the more deeply embedded layers have been observed. However, the fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts of recent days have been deposited atop surface hoar and faceted crystals which formed beneath crusts. This raises the pronenes to triggering of the uppermost layers. The phenomenon is especially pronounced on east and west- facing slopes above 2200 m, on south-facing slopes above 2400 m. Below 2200 m the moist snowpack has stabilized somewhat in the low temperatures.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: arctic air masses and a weak high pressure front are the creators of today's weather in Tirol. The pressure zones are balanced and the winds at all altitudes are light. Mountain weather today: clear and cold this morning, only a bit of cloud. Later on, high altitude cloud layers will move in from the west, the light will become diffuse. It will remain dry. In southern regions, esp. Dolomites and Carnic Alps, persistent high cloud cover, more pleasant towards the Main Ridge. Temperature at 2000 m: -6 degrees; at 3000 m: -12 degrees. Light to moderate NE/SE winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede only incrementally.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe