



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Caution: fresh, small, often highly trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The icy NE winds have increased avalanche danger somewhat at high altitude. Above the treeline, danger is generally considerable; below the treeline moderate or low. Three avalanche problems currently threaten. First, the snowdrift problem, particularly on shady slopes above the treeline, at high altitudes in all aspects. The low temperatures have made the drifts very brittle, thereby highly prone to triggering. With some experience, these generally small-sized danger zones can be spotted and circumvented. Isolated small slab avalanches can be triggered naturally. Second, the old snow problem in the uppermost layers of the snowpack also requires caution. Avalanche prone locations are found above 2400 m on steep south facing slopes. And last, the gliding avalanches are also still a threat, despite the low temperatures.

SNOW LAYERING

The low temperatures are having a pronounced effect on the snowpack. On shady slopes, loose powder is often found, sometimes extremely light flakes; sometimes hoar covers the surface. Potential weak layers for slab avalanches are the surface snow and, on south-facing slopes above 2400 m, layers of faceted crystals near the melt-freeze crusts. Many of the recently released avalanches came from this weak layer, especially often in the regions west of the Wipptal.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Siberian cold, sunny in high alpine regions. In southern regions, sun until afternoon. At low and intermediate altitudes on the northern flank of the Alps, cloud and residual fog will impair visibility. Light snowfall is possible intermittently. Temperature at 2000 m: -20 degrees, at 3000 m: -26 degrees. Moderate easterly winds in Northern Alps and in high alpine regions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The NE winds will slacken off. But the snowdrift accumulations will remain prone to triggering.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe