



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

Main danger: fresh, small, sometimes highly trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains highly dependent on wind impact and is generally subject to altitude. Above 2500 m, considerable avalanche danger prevails over widespread areas; below 2500 m danger is moderate; below the treeline danger is generally low. Avalanche prone locations are found increasingly in shady terrain and near ridgelines; the danger zones are usually small and easily recognized, their number increases with ascending altitude. Caution urged also in sunny, very steep terrain above 2400 m, where slab avalanches can be triggered in the uppermost layers of the snowpack by large additional loading. Most of the reported releases of recent days occurred at 2600-2800 m altitude. The risk of gliding avalanches is statistically smaller, but it is still a threat on steep, grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

Wind impact is the decisive factor in avalanche danger, combined with the very low temperatures. Due to the cold, loose snow is prevalent on shady slopes and this is being metamorphosed by the temperature alone. The snowpack surface thereby becomes the perfect surface for snowdrifts deposited on top of it - a weak layer par excellence. Wind impact is currently quite varied, from none at all to strong-velocity. Wherever there is wind, special caution is imperative. Cracks in the surface, settling noises (whumpf!) and reports of small avalanches confirm the high proneness to triggering of the snowdrift accumulations. On south-facing slopes above 2400 m, furthermore, the uppermost weak layers of the snowpack are riddled with faceted crystals surrounding the melt-freeze crusts.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Ongoing, extreme cold. Apart from high-fog like cloud at intermediate altitude on the northern flank of the Alps, there are also cloudbanks above summit level. Particularly in the western regions at high altitude, and in the mountains of South Tirol, it will be intermittently sunny. Caution urged towards the risks of frostbite: at 2000 m, -20 degrees, at 3000 m, -26 degrees. Moderate easterly winds at high altitudes of the Northern Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change is expected in avalanche danger levels.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe