



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Caution: highly trigger-sensitive snowdrifts in shady terrain

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above the treeline, considerable avalanche danger prevails; below the treeline danger is often low; in the foehn lanes, danger is moderate. The main problem is still the freshly transported snow. Avalanche prone locations are found in steep, shady terrain above the forest limits. These danger zones also occur in the typical foehn lanes. The snowdrift accumulations are quite prone to triggering. This has been confirmed in recent days by numerous avalanches involving persons. What is most important today: avoid the snowdrifts. Additional isolated danger zones are found above 2600 m in very steep south-facing terrain (old snow problem) where avalanches can be triggered in the uppermost layers of the snowpack by large additional loading. On steep, grassy slopes the danger of isolated gliding avalanches still threatens.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been a small amount of snowfall registered in Tirol. The importance of this: it makes recognizing the avalanche prone locations much more difficult. The uppermost weak layers of the snowpack have now been blanketed by freshly generated snowdrift accumulations. The weak layers are comprised of loose, faceted crystals - and also surface hoar - which were formed during the period of extreme cold, the latter often occurring in shady, steep, ridgeline terrain (Nigg effect). Faceted crystals are also found on south-facing slopes beneath the melt-freeze crust, although there is not ordinarily a slab on top of them. Settling noises (whumpf!) and cracks in the snowpack surface have also underscored just how prone to triggering the snowpack is.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Last night there was a little snowfall in northern and western regions. Today it will be sunny, with foehn wind. From the west, cloud cover will soon move in. Light will become more diffuse, the peaks will remain mostly in the clear. Only on the Main Ridge and in the mountains of East Tirol will skies turn gray, some minor snowfall is possible during the afternoon. Relatively mild. At 2000 m: -1 degree in northern regions, -4 degrees in southern regions; at 3000 m: -10 to -8 degrees. Brisk SW winds, stronger in the foehn lanes, later shifting to westerly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift accumulations remain the main problem. Slowly they are becoming less prone to triggering.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe