



Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 17.03.2018 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		<p>old snow</p>	<p>2100m faceted upper layer</p>
		<p>gliding snow</p>	<p>2400m isolated, grassy slopes</p>
		<p>General Level Tirol</p>	<p>Tendency tomorrow</p> <p>constant</p>

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

Main danger: fresh snowdrifts at high altitude

AVALANCHE DANGER

Considerable avalanche danger prevails from region to region above 2600 m; below 2600 m danger is generally moderate; below 2100 m danger is low widespread. Freeriders and backcountry skiers need to pay attention to recently formed snowdrift accumulations in very steep terrain above 2600 m, initially in shady terrain but sunny terrain is increasingly risky above 2600 m. Caution is urged near ridgelines, where snowdrift accumulations are deepest. At low altitudes, isolated gliding avalanches can release on steep, grassy slopes. We recommend circumventing all zones where glide cracks are visible in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

The lower part of the snowpack is stable, but the uppermost layers are riddled with unfavourable, weak segments. Below about 2100 m, and on very steep, sunny slopes up to 2600 m, the layering is good. Usually there is a thick melt-freeze crust on the surface, often capable of bearing loads. The layering in shady terrain between 2100 and 2400 m and on sunny slopes above 2600 m is less favourable. The thin melt-freeze crusts often harbor layers of loosely-packed, faceted crystals. A thick layer of bonded snow on top if this is usually lacking: the so-called slab. Wherever a slab exists, e.g. from snowdrift accumulations, the snowpack is more prone to triggering, and fracture propagation is likely. On shady slopes, furthermore, the still loosely-packed powder snow or graupel can also be a weak layer at high altitudes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Clouds will dominate the weather today, and fog as of midday. Visibility will deteriorate, most swiftly on the Main Alpine Ridge. This afternoon, starting in southern regions, light snowfall will set in, the snowfall level in the Northern Alps will descend to below 1000 m, in other regions to 1200 m. In East Tirol, light snowfall during the morning. Temperature at 2000 m: -4 to -1 degree; at 3000 m: -9 degrees. Light to moderate southeasterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Recently formed snowdrifts are the main danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe