



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.3 - rain](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#)

Rain weakens snowpack at low altitudes. Beware snowdrifts at high altitudes.

AVALANCHE DANGER

In western regions, considerable avalanche danger prevails today due to intensive precipitation. Further east, danger is moderate this morning, but could later increase to considerable if precipitation and winds continue. At low and intermediate altitudes, rain is weakening the snowpack. On extremely steep slopes, moist loose-snow avalanches could trigger naturally, as well as by the weight of skiers. This applies increasingly to regions where there has been ample snowfall recently. In general, rain also encourages gliding avalanche releases on steep, grassy slopes. At high altitudes, the danger stems from fresh and older snowdrifts. Freshly generated snowdrift accumulations above 2200 m, especially on shady slopes, and in general at high altitudes near ridgelines, can trigger easily, even the weight of one single freerider or skier is sufficient. Older drifts, on the other hand, can trigger primarily by large additional loading. Danger zones for older drifts occur particularly in terrain adjacent to ridgelines, shady slopes above 2100 m, and steep east-south-west facing slopes above 2500 m.

SNOW LAYERING

The automated measurement stations show that the snowpack is becoming increasingly moist or thoroughly wet up to 2000 m. Rain leads to the snowpack becoming wetter still, weakening it further. Solar radiation has a positive effect on this. Above 2200 m the still loosely-packed, now blanketed powder snow is a potential weak layer for fresh snowdrifts being deposited on top of it. With ascending altitude, the snowpack's likelihood of triggering increases. Furthermore, the uppermost part of the snow cover also has other weak layers, e.g. of faceted crystals (near melt-freeze crusts on east and west-facing slopes above 2500 m, on south-facing slopes in high alpine regions) and surface hoar (near ridgelines, Nigg effect).

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Inhospitable conditions, poor visibility north and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, fog, cloud and repeated bouts of snowfall. In the Northern Alps, snowfall down to 1100 m, in other regions down to 1500 m. Most fresh snow is expected on the Main Alpine Ridge. At 2000 m: -3 degrees; at 3000 m: -8 degrees. Moderate to brisk SW winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Southerly winds rising, leading to more snow transport at high altitudes.

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