



**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.10 - springtime szenario](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.9 - graupel blanketed with snow](#)

## Treacherous avalanche situation regionally for backcountry skiers and freeriders

### AVALANCHE DANGER

In the borderline regions along the Main Alpine Ridge of the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, including East Tirol, a treacherous situation prevails for backcountry skiers and freeriders. Avalanche danger is a critical (high) level 3. Overall, there has been 50 cm of fresh snow registered accompanied by strong wind impact. Wide ranging snowdrift accumulations were generated which are increasingly prone to triggering with ascending altitude. Most important factor today is the increasingly diffuse solar radiation: the more intense it is, the more naturally triggered loose-snow avalanches can be expected in extremely steep terrain. In isolated cases these releases can in turn trigger large-sized slab avalanches wherever the snowfall has been heavy, particularly above 2100 m, to start with on shady slopes, with increasing altitude also on west and east-facing slopes, in high alpine regions even on south-facing slopes. Loose-snow avalanches can in themselves also grow to large size, since they can sweep along the thoroughly wet old snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes. In the other regions of Tirol, danger below 2100 m is moderate; above 2100 m danger is considerable. During the day, the danger level will rise to considerable everywhere. Backcountry skiers and freeriders need to exercise caution towards drifts at high altitude; and also towards wet loose-snow avalanches and gliding avalanches on steep, grassy slopes.

### SNOW LAYERING

There has again been rainfall/snowfall in Tirol, most of which fell in East Tirol (30 cm). Overall there has been 50 cm of fresh snow registered in the Brenner region and in East Tirol over the last two days. Winds shifted from southerly to northerly and intensified during the day. Two problems threaten: above 2100 m there are weak layers near the upper surface of the snowpack: graupel, and on shady slopes blanketed surface hoar, on east and west-facing slopes metamorphosed (faceted) crystals near melt-freeze crusts, on south-facing slopes at higher altitudes. Warmth and wetness have weakened the snowpack. At low and intermediate altitudes the snowpack is generally wet down to the ground, thus possesses little firmness.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Easter Sunday will bring highly variable conditions on the northern flank of the Alps. Cloudy skies with fog, but windows of sunshine in inneralpine regions in particular. Some snow showers can also be expected, most of which will fall from the Lechtal Alps to the Arlberg. The southern flank of the Alps will profit from the shifting winds, thereby gaining more sunshine, particularly in the southern Dolomites and in the Carnic Alps. At 2000 m: -5 degrees; at 3000 m: -13 degrees. Brisk to strong NW winds, intensifying further this afternoon.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springtime situation: daytime loss of snowpack firmness is more and more important!

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe