



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

Delicate avalanche situation: drifts at high altitude, wet-snow at low altitude

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is precarious, the danger is considerable widespread (upper level 3). Above 2200 m it is the fresh and older snowdrift accumulations from which the threat stems, they are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes and in ridgeline terrain in all aspects. Frequency and size of danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. Below 2600 m, avalanche danger increases during the courses of the day with daytime warming and diffuse solar radiation. Naturally triggered wet loose-snow avalanches, in isolated cases also slab avalanches, can be expected. Particularly on steep, grassy slopes, gliding avalanches continue to be possible at any time. Due to the unusual snow depths this winter, avalanche releases can grow to dangerously large size and place exposed transportation routes at risk.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10-20 cm of fresh snow registered in the Silvretta, Arlberg/Ausserfern, Northern Alps, Kitzbühel Alps and East Tirolean Tauern Ridge, even more in shower cells. Strong to storm-strength NW winds at high altitude have transported the fresh snow and generated wide ranging snowdrift accumulations. The drifts are poorly bonded with the snowpack beneath them, often containing graupel, on shady slopes containing surface hoar. Furthermore, above 2200 m there are layers of metamorphosed (faceted) crystals lurking beneath hardened crusts. These layers, too, could provide bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tirol lies at the edge of a high pressure zone centered over southern Italy. The high altitude air current is shifting to southwesterly, and bringing milder air masses to the Alps. On Thursday a perturbation will come our way. Mountain weather today: Easter Monday will be pleasant and warm at all altitudes. High altitude clouds will pass through above summit level, creating somewhat flat light in the Northern Alps more than anywhere else, but permitting ample sunshine. At 2000 m: -8 to +2 degrees; at 3000 m: -12 to -4 degrees. Moderate to brisk westerly winds at high altitudes, later shifting to southwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasingly springlike conditions. Heed daytime danger cycle.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe