



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.2 - gliding snow](#) [dp.10 - springtime szenario](#)

Daily avalanche cycle. Main danger: gliding avalanches

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger depends both on altitude and on time of day. In the early morning below 2600 m, danger is moderate; above that altitude, low. During the morning, danger rises as the snowpack becomes thoroughly wet and the melt-freeze crust softens, to considerable below 2600 m, moderate above 2600 m. Highest caution is urged towards gliding avalanches on steep, grassy slopes. Water seeps down to the ground, eliminates the friction, raises the likelihood of triggering. Skiers can trigger wet loose-snow avalanches anywhere in steep terrain where the uppermost layer of the snowpack is thoroughly wet. Slab avalanches are most likely on west and east-facing slopes at 2500-2900 m and in shady terrain at about 2000 m. Particularly in the afternoon, skiers can trigger isolated avalanches in steep terrain there.

SNOW LAYERING

Skies were variably cloudy during the night, the snowpack was able to cool slightly. The melt-freeze crust below 2300 m is generally quite thin and not capable of bearing loads. Above that altitude the crust can usually carry loads in the early morning hours. Beneath the crust on sunny slopes the snowpack is frequently wet up to high altitudes. Potential weak layers for slab avalanches are found in layers of usually wet metamorphosed (faceted) crystals near embedded crusts on west and east-facing slopes at about 2500-2900 m, on north-facing slopes at 2000 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

On the southern flank of the Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge, clouds will impede visibility in spite of occasional sunshine, some light rainfall is likely (snowfall level at 1800-2000 m). The northern flank of the Alps profits from the foehn wind. Despite high altitude cloud, visibility (especially further north) is quite good and foehn-induced sunshine will be dominant. Isolated showers are expected on the northern rim of the Alps as evening approaches. At 2000 m: +4 degrees; at 3000 m: -4 degrees. Strong, gusty southerly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche situation will persist. Poor snow quality at low and intermediate altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe