

Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 26.03.2009, at 07:30



Allgemeine Gefahrenstufe: 3

R2 Westliche Nordalpen	am: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3	R1 Arlberg-Außerfern	am: < 2000m 3 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 3 , > 2000m 3
R4 Silvretta-Samnaun	am: < 2000m 3 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 3 , > 2000m 3	R3 Östliche Nordalpen	am: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3
R6 Tuxer Alpen	am: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3	R5 Nördliche Ötztaler und Stubai- Alpen	am: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3
R8 Südliche Ötztaler und Stubai- Alpen	am: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3	R7 Kitzbüheler Alpen	am: < 2000m 3 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 3 , > 2000m 3
R10 Osttiroler Tauern	am: < 2300m 2 , > 2300m 3 pm: < 2300m 2 , > 2300m 3	R9 Zillertaler Alpen	am: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3 pm: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 3
R12 Osttiroler Dolomiten	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2	R11 Zentral Osttirol	am: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 2 pm: < 2000m 2 , > 2000m 2

Avalanche prone locations (am): N,NO,O,SO,S,SW,W,NW>2000

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FRESHLY FORMED SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS ARE THE MAJOR HAZARD

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is most critical in North Tyrol's western regions, Silvretta, Arlberg and Ausserfern, due to the latest round of snowfall and wind, where the danger level is generally considerable. In the remaining regions of North Tyrol, the hazards depend on altitude: above 2000 m it is considerable, below it is moderate, in some places it is low. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders are to be found in recently formed snowdrift accumulations, which are deeper and more frequent in the western regions. They are trigger sensitive above 2000 m in western regions, above 2300 in eastern regions, but become more prone to triggering with increasing altitude. They are especially frequent near ridge lines and below sharp breaks in the terrain, but with experience can be recognised easily and thereby avoided. Avalanches will attain medium size, in general. On very steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above 2000 m, slab avalanche danger prevails, where particularly in transitions from little to lots of snow large additional loading can trigger avalanches (in extremely steep terrain, even minimum additional loading). In southern East Tyrol, conditions are measurably better.

SNOW LAYERING

The winter simply does not want to end. There was again about 30 cm of new snow in western regions of North Tyrol, locally up to 50 cm. Strong westerly winds gave rise to new snowdrift accumulations. Bed surfaces for avalanches are to be found in the loosely packed snowdrift layers, occurring when the wind tapers off temporarily, and in the thin melt-freeze crusts, in isolated cases in layers of graupel. The snowpack in springtime is no longer as prone to triggering as in winter., but caution is urged towards the intermediate layers embedded inside the snowdrift whose bonding worsens with increasing altitude. On shady slopes, particularly between 2000 and 2600 m, caution is still urged towards the intermediate, loose, faceted layer from mid-January.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: limited visibility, moderate snowfall in the Northern Alps this morning, during the afternoon slackening off to light flurries, perhaps even a bit of sunshine. The Main Alpine Ridge offers the best chance of bright spells. On the southern flank of the Alps, generally sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Moderate to strong westerly to northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Gradually diminishing avalanche danger, though subject to daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe