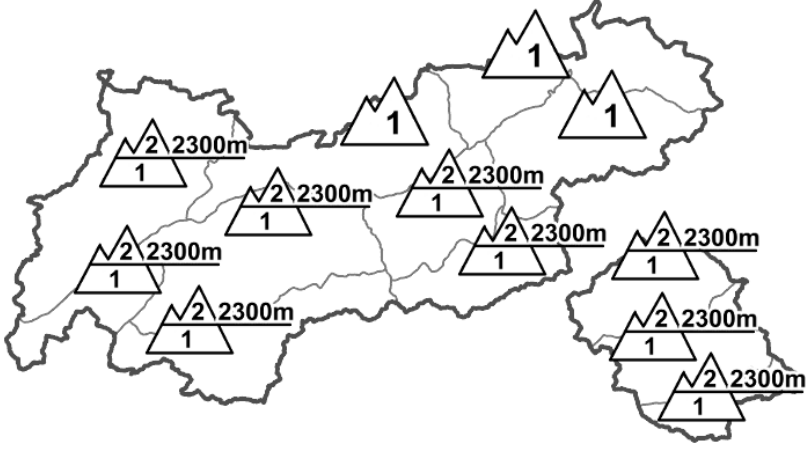






Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 20.12.2014 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		<p>General Level Tirol</p>  <p>Tendency tomorrow</p>  <p>constant</p>

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#)

Moderate avalanche danger frequently above 2300 m. High caution in steep, shady terrain.

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2300 m moderate danger frequently prevails; below that altitude the danger level is often low. In the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps, the danger level is low in general, due to lack of snow. As a result of lower temperatures the situation has improved slightly since yesterday, when artificial triggerings in the Arlberg region were successful, but a high degree of caution is still necessary in very steep, shady terrain above approximately 2300 m in particular. In regions where there is but little snow, small slab avalanches can release by large additional loading. In addition, the wind at high altitude has done a thorough job of remixing the snows. Particularly above approximately 2800 m, freshly drifted masses in very steep terrain should be circumvented!

SNOW LAYERING

The rain during the night of 18 December up to about 2200 m, in isolated cases up to 2500 m, plus the subsequently sinking temperatures gave rise to a thin ice crust on the snowpack surface in many places. At high altitudes, the storm-strength winds transported snow, although heightened proneness to triggering of fresh snowdrift prevails in general only above about 2800 m. The major peril is found in shady, very steep terrain where there is only little snow. The old snowpack in those areas has several crusts between which lurk loosely packed, faceted snow crystals. Shooting cracks and the whumpfung sounds of the snowpack settling (together with snow analysis) together indicate heightened proneness to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A powerful westerly to northwesterly airstream blankets the Alps. Last night's perturbation is moving on, by the end of the day today a new cold front will arrive, bringing a modest amount of precipitation. In its wake, high pressure conditions will gain the upper hand. As Christmas Eve approaches, the weather will turn very mild. Mountain weather today: snow showers will taper off in the Northern Alps this morning, but the cloud will be tenacious, only as of midday will the sun make an appearance. In inneralpine regions, the clouds will disperse during the morning, pleasant conditions will dominate. Very sunny south of the Main Alpine Ridge. Light to moderate snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas towards the end of the day. Windy. Temperature at 2000 m: -2 degrees, dropping to -7 degrees during the night tonight; at 3000 m, -7 degrees, tonight falling to -14 degrees. At high altitudes, strong to storm velocity westerly to northwesterly winds. At intermediate altitudes, winds will temporarily slacken off during the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New snow transport at high altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe