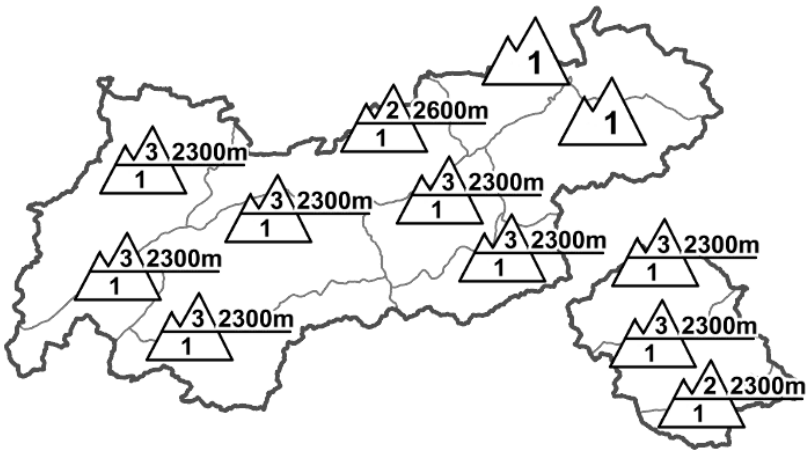
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Sunday, 21.12.2014, at 07:30 Uhr

Regional Avalanche Danger Levels
in alpine areas from 21.12.2014 07:30 All-Day



WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots

General Level Tirol

Tendency tomorow

constant

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

Caution urged in very steep, shady terrain above 2300 m. Beware fresh snowdrift!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has increased somewhat since yesterday. In many regions of Tirol the danger level above 2300 m is now considerable. The cause: storm strength winds at high altitudes which have transported fresh fallen snow and accumulated newly drifted masses which are prone to triggering. These freshly drifted masses are found increasingly in ridgeline terrain and in gullies and bowls. Their proneness to triggering and their spread tend to increase with ascending altitude. In addition, caution is urged in very steep, shady terrain above approximately 2300 m, where weak layers lurk inside the old snowpack and can release by large additional loading, sometimes even by minimum additional loading. This is frequently the case in regions where there is but little snow. For that reason, the situation is better in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, and in East Tirol.

SNOW LAYERING

Huge snow plumes waving from the peaks are a clear indicator of the widespread snow transport taking place in the heights. Fresh snowdrift above approximately 2300 m can increasingly trigger at the transition point between it and the loosely packed powder beneath it. Naturally triggered small slab avalanches observed yesterday on steep ridgeline slopes are proof positive of this. In addition, the old snowpack, particularly in those regions where there is little snow, evidences numerous crusts and embedded layers of faceted crystals between them on shady slopes above approximately 2300 m. Stability tests, together with an avalanche casualty in the Stubai Alps, demonstrate the heightened proneness to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol remains caught in a northwesterly airstream. As the cold front withdrew last night, high pressure conditions gained the upper hand. The result will be significantly milder temperatures persisting until Christmas Day. Mountain weather today: in the Northern Limestone Alps a small amount of snowfall is possible this morning. Starting on the Main Alpine Ridge the clouds will disperse and the sun make itself felt over the morning hours. In the Wilder Kaiser region the cloud cover may prove more tenacious this afternoon, but elsewhere cloud cover will recede. In the Southern Alps, sunshine right from the start. In exposed areas it will remain windy. Temperature at 2000 m, from -7 to -2 degrees; at 3000 m, from -13 to -6 degrees and rising. In high alpine and eastern regions, strong westerly to northwesterly winds reaching down to intermediate altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As temperatures rise the avalanche situation will improve. Steep, shady slopes above approximately 2300 m still need to be approached with caution.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**