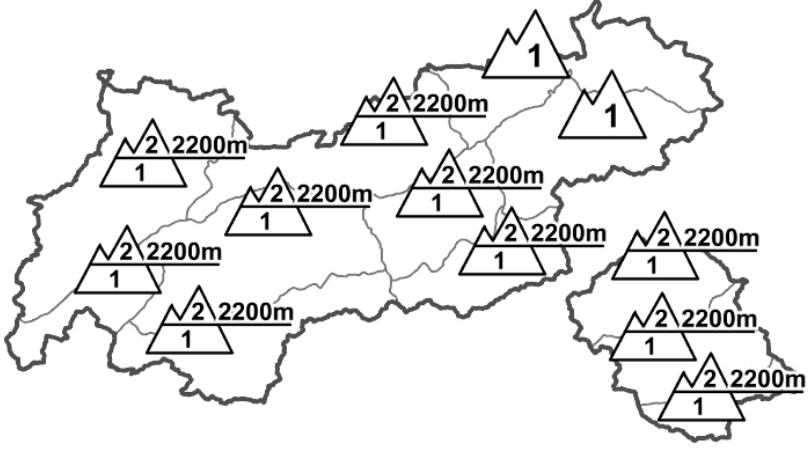






Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 26.12.2014 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	<p>General Level Tirol</p> 	<p>Tendency tomorrow</p>  <p>increasing</p>

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

Moderate avalanche danger widespread above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions has increased somewhat, but is still moderate far and wide this morning. The major peril stems from older, as well as from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. Caution: the strong northwesterly winds at high altitude will give rise to new snowdrift accumulations ongoingly over the course of the day! As a result of the lower temperatures, these drifted masses are brittle, making them prone to triggering. Danger zones are to be found on wind-loaded slopes and in drifted gullies and bowls in all aspects. Frequency and spread tend to increase with ascending altitude as well as progressively over the course of the day. Avalanches will become increasingly more frequent, i.e. more likely, even by minimum additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The first bout of light precipitation brought 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow over widespread areas in Tirol. High altitude northwesterly winds were strong, well above transport velocity, thus bringing about relatively small-sized snowdrift accumulations repeatedly. New fallen and newly drifted snows now blanket a very irregular old snowpack surface: to some extent hardened and compressed, in other places quite loosely packed. In addition, faceted, loose snow crystals are frequently embedded deep inside the snowpack between hardened crusts. These layers are potential bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: It kept us waiting a long time, but the far-reaching northwesterly current has finally shifted, freeing the airways for arctic air masses to come our way. These masses are now accumulating against the barrier of the Alps, leading to snow showers down to low altitudes. On the southern flank of the Alps, north-foehn conditions prevail. This wintery weather will abide for a longer period. Mountain weather today: In the Northern Limestone Alps and from the Zillertal over the Kitzbühel Alps to the Tauern Ridge, approximately 15 to 25 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated by tomorrow morning, in isolated cases somewhat more. Less new fallen snow, about 5 to 10 cm, is expected from the Silvretta to the southern Ötztal Alps. The Dolomites and Carnic Alps will get no snow. On the northern flank of the Alps the visibility will be poor; in the Southern Alps, bright spells are anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: -9 degrees; at 3000 m: -17 degrees. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As a result of snowfall and wind, noticeable increase in avalanche danger, especially in northern regions.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe