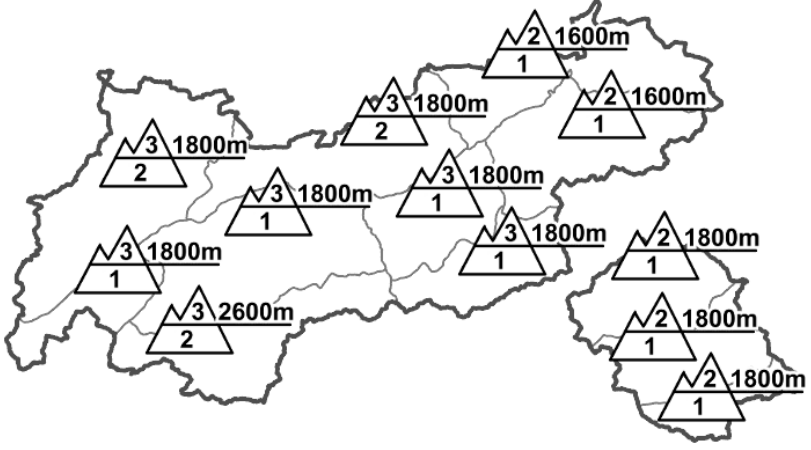






Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 29.12.2014 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	<p>General Level Tirol</p> 	<p>Tendency tomorrow</p>  <p>constant</p>

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

Considerable avalanche danger regionally above treeline due to fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above the treeline the danger level is considerable from region to region; below the treeline it is frequently low. In southern regions the conditions tend to be better. The major peril currently stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. Since the wind shifted from southerly to northerly directions, the danger zones are now to be found in all aspects. They often occur on steep ridgeline slopes, in gullies and bowls. Their frequency and likelihood of triggering tend to increase with ascending altitude. In addition, particularly steep, shady slopes between approximately 2200 and 2600 m require special caution: the old snowpack can release by large additional loading. (The situation in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps is more favourable.)

SNOW LAYERING

Snowfall, winds and low temperatures are an ideal mixture for snowdrift which is prone to trigger; precisely that is what has formed over the last few days through winds blowing at above transport velocity. Slab avalanches can release at the transition point between fresh snowdrift and cold, loose, new fallen snow. Due to the low temperatures, the drifted masses are brittle and quite easy to trigger with only minimum additional loading. In addition, the old snowpack contains problem zones of its own: particularly in very steep, shady terrain between approximately 2200 and 2600 m, between hardened crusts, lie loosely packed layers which stability tests demonstrate to have heightened proneness to trigger.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A very powerful northerly high altitude airstream dominates the skies over the Alps. Again today it will bring a round of snowfall to Tirol from the moist air masses embedded inside it. The next bout will follow on its heels, tomorrow. Mountain weather today: deep winter reigns, usually inhospitable conditions dominate in the mountains, even if there will be some sunshine this morning and early afternoon. Near summits and ridgelines, an icy cold, very strong northerly wind is blowing, making the cold seem even more intense. The peaks will soon be veiled in cloud, snowfall will again set in. In the northern barrier zones, up to 25 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated today; elsewhere, 10 to 15 cm. Temperature at 2000m, -13 degrees; at 3000m, -19 degrees. Strong to storm-strength northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift is the major peril.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe