





Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 30.12.2014 07:30 MORNING		Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 30.12.2014 07:30 AFTERNOON		Tendency tomorrow  increasing
WHAT? - problem	WHERE? - danger spots	WHAT? - problem	WHERE? - danger spots	General Level Tirol 

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

Above approximately 2000 m, often considerable avalanche danger due to fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

Potential avalanche danger above approximately 2000m must be given due consideration. Considerable danger frequently prevails, or this danger level will be reached during the course of the day in the Kitzbühel Alps and eastern sector of the Northern Alps as snowfall continues. The major peril still stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations on steep, leeward slopes. The danger zones are to be found in all aspects. They occur on steep ridgeline slopes, in gullies and bowls. Special caution is urged in the areas of the Arlberg and Ausserfern which have had the most snow. In addition, steep, shady slopes between approximately 2200 and 2600 m demand caution: the old snowpack can release by large additional loading. The situation in southern East Tirol is more favourable.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack above the treeline (at very least) bears heavy marks from wind influence of the last few days, making it highly irregular. Fresh snowdrift can be most easily triggered at the transition point between it and the cold, loose powder immediately beneath it. This has been corroborated by numerous observations of shooting cracks on the surface. Snow analysis also shows that the old snowpack itself has problems: particularly in very steep, shady terrain in the range 2200 to 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: Embedded inside a northerly high altitude airstream, the next mass of moist air will reach us over the course of the day, bringing further snowfall. By tomorrow, the final day of 2014, this very powerful current will shift to northeasterly, the high pressure zone over the Atlantic will simultaneously move towards the Alps, the air masses become significantly drier as we step into the new year. Mountain weather today: deep winter prevails in North Tirol. Light to moderate snowfall, heavier this afternoon, amidst strong to stormy winds in exposed terrain. Visibility from the Northern Alps to the Main Alpine Ridge very poor due to fog and snow showers. The intense cold continues in the mountains, but temperatures will rise slightly by evening. Temperature at 2000m, -13 degrees; at 3000m, -18 degrees. Strong to stormy strength northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As a result of the snowfall, unfavourable conditions are developing above all in North Tirol.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe