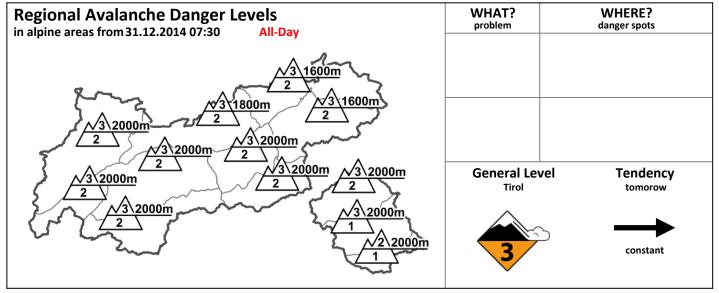


Avalanche Bulletin of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Wednesday, 31.12.2014, at 07:30 Uhr





DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer dp.9 - graupel blanketed with snow

Considerable avalanche danger far and wide above 2000m due to fresh snow and wind

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions of Tirol which have had the most snowfall, including Northern and Kitzbühel Alps, considerable avalanche danger prevails above the treeline; below that altitude the danger is moderate. In the remaining regions, the borderline altitude is about 2000m. In southern East Tirol, the danger level below the treeline is low, above that altitude moderate. Three problems require special attentiveness: a) fresh snowdrift above the treeline which northerly winds have accumulated in recent days, primarily in steep, south facing ridgeline terrain, but also in gullies and bowls in other aspects. b) steep, shady slopes between 2200 and 2600 m where there has been snowfall in the last few days: slab avalanches can be triggered here even by minimum additional loading. c) on steep, grass-covered slopes in the regions where snowfall has been greatest, gliding avalanches now threaten.

SNOW LAYERING

Between 25 and 50 cm of new fallen snow has been registered over the last 24 hours in Ausserfern, the Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps. Elsewhere, generally between 10 and 20 cm; in East Tirol, for the most part 5 cm. Strong winds have again transported the new fallen snow. Fresh snowdrift can be triggered at the transition point to the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it, as has been confirmed by shooting cracks and artificial triggerings. In addition, surrounding thin crusts inside the old snowpack are loosely packed, faceted crystals, potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches. This is primarily the case in shady terrain between approximately 2200 and 2600 m, as well as on sunny slopes above approximately 2800 m. In wind protected areas, predominantly below the treeline, superb powder snow can be found in northern and eastern regions.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The moist air masses of the northeasterly current over the eastern Alps are being replaced by a high pressure zone. Tomorrow on New Year's Day, the influence of an intermediate high will make itself felt, bringing milder temperatures. In its wake will follow a northwesterly airstream with precipitation layers embedded inside it. Mountain weather today: deep winter reigns, with storm-strength winds in the mountains. Visibility in the Northern Alps is limited by cloudbanks and ongoing snow showers, persisting longest between Karwendel and Kitbzühel Alps where the snowflakes will fall into the afternoon. The higher peaks of the Main Alpine Ridge will get a bit of sunshine this afternoon, particularly in the Uplands. In East Tirol, a few snow showers this morning, dry with bright spells this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m, -8 degrees; at 3000 m, -12 degrees. Strong to stormy northeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Patrick Nairz

A treacherous avalanche situation in many regions of Tirol tomorrow

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe