





Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 01.01.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	<p>General Level Tirol</p> 	<p>Tendency tomorrow</p> 

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Treacherous avalanche situation regionally above the treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

The first day of pleasant weather conditions following a period of snowfall and storm winds is known to be accident-prone. Thus, our appeal on New Year's Day: exercise extreme caution in very steep terrain above the treeline in the regions where snowfall has been heaviest! Some released avalanches, whumpung sounds and several successful artificial triggerings confirm just how treacherous the situation is above the treeline, where considerable avalanche danger prevails over widespread areas. Beneath that altitude the danger level is generally moderate; in southern East Tirol to some extent low. The major peril still stems from fresh snowdrift which has accumulated over the last few days, primarily in ridgeline terrain on south facing slopes as well as in general in drifted gullies and bowls. Due to the higher temperatures and solar radiation, isolated slab avalanches can also trigger naturally. Loose avalanches are increasingly likely in sunny, extremely steep terrain. Immense restraint is required on very steep, shady slopes, particularly between approximately 2200 and 2600m, where slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. In addition, gliding avalanches can be expected on steep, grass-covered slopes wherever snowfall has been heavy.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover above the treeline bears heavy marks of wind influence in many places, making the snowpack itself highly irregular. Repeatedly, loosely packed powder snow blankets the avalanche prone locations. Slab avalanches can release particularly easily at the transition point between fresh snowdrift and loosely packed, cold powder, as well as from the loose, faceted layers in the old snowpack on shady slopes between approximately 2200 and 2600 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Today and tomorrow a high pressure front extending over Spain and France will prevail, reaching Tirol with its influence. Temperatures will be higher, especially in the mountains. On Friday night, a cold front will reach us from the northwest. Mountain weather today: An intermediate high is bringing very sunny, somewhat less cold weather, the skies often cloudless. In the Kitzbühel Alps and around the Kaiser, some cloudbanks will move in from the east. Winds will be far lighter than in recent days. The landscape is a vast picture of deep snow. Temperature at 2000m: rising to +1 degree; at 3000m: -3 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowdrift is settling and stabilising. Old snow on north facing slopes remains prone to triggering.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe