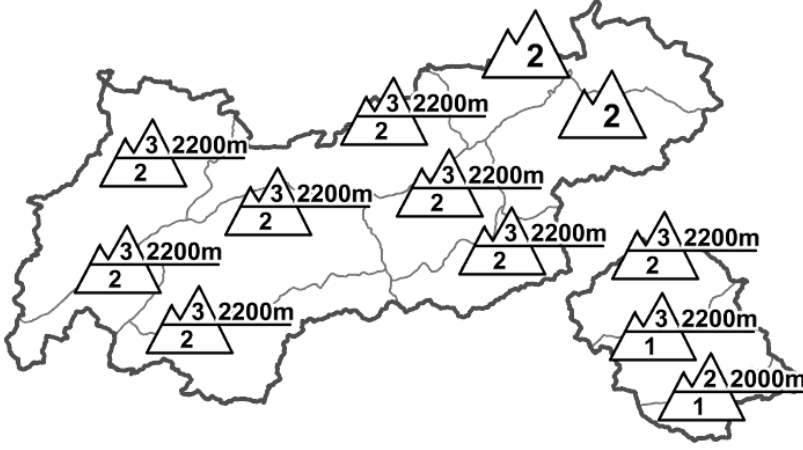






Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 02.01.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	<p>General Level Tirol</p> 	<p>Tendency tomorrow</p>  <p>constant</p>

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Above 2200m, ongoing considerable danger, old snowpack is trigger-sensitive

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger has receded somewhat since yesterday, which was a very avalanche-ridden day. Naturally triggered avalanches are no longer to be expected today, but the danger level above 2200m is still considerable (moderate below that altitude, in southern East Tirol low). The major peril now stems from the poor structuring of the old snowpack. Avalanches prone locations are to be found increasingly in shady terrain between approximately 2200m and 2600m as well as in sunny, very steep terrain above approximately 2600m. Even minimum additional loading, particularly in shady terrain, is sufficient to release a slab avalanche. This is increasingly the case in areas where there is little snow in transition zones from shallow to deep snow. Close to ridgelines, fresh snowdrift accumulated only at high altitudes, triggerable above approximately 3000m. Beware gliding avalanches in northern regions where there is lots of snow.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday's very warm sunshine initially deteriorated the firmness of the snowpack, but now has led to a further stabilisation. Fresh snowdrift in particular is now triggerable at the transition point to the loosely packed powder only at high altitudes. The major hazard comes from the old snowpack which is frequently resting on alternating layers of variable crusts and faceted crystals whose bonding is poor, thus making the likelihood of triggering high. Settling ("whumpfung") sounds and shooting cracks throughout the land are marked indicators of the heightened proneness to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: high pressure between Spain and the Ukraine is the weather determinant today. Very mild at high altitudes. From the northwest, the next cold front will reach us by evening, bringing some precipitation to northern regions in particular Friday night. Mountain weather today: there are 2 zero-degree levels, one in the valleys and another at 2500m. In between, temperatures are above freezing, making it quite mild in the mountains. Sunshine will be dampened by cirrus cloud, winds are coming up, and this afternoon snowfall will set in, beginning in the Northern Alps. Temperature at 2000m: +3 degrees; at 3000m: -2 degrees. Northwesterly winds will noticeably intensify, reaching strong velocity by evening in northern regions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Beware fresh snowdrift, newly forming as a result of stormy winds

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe