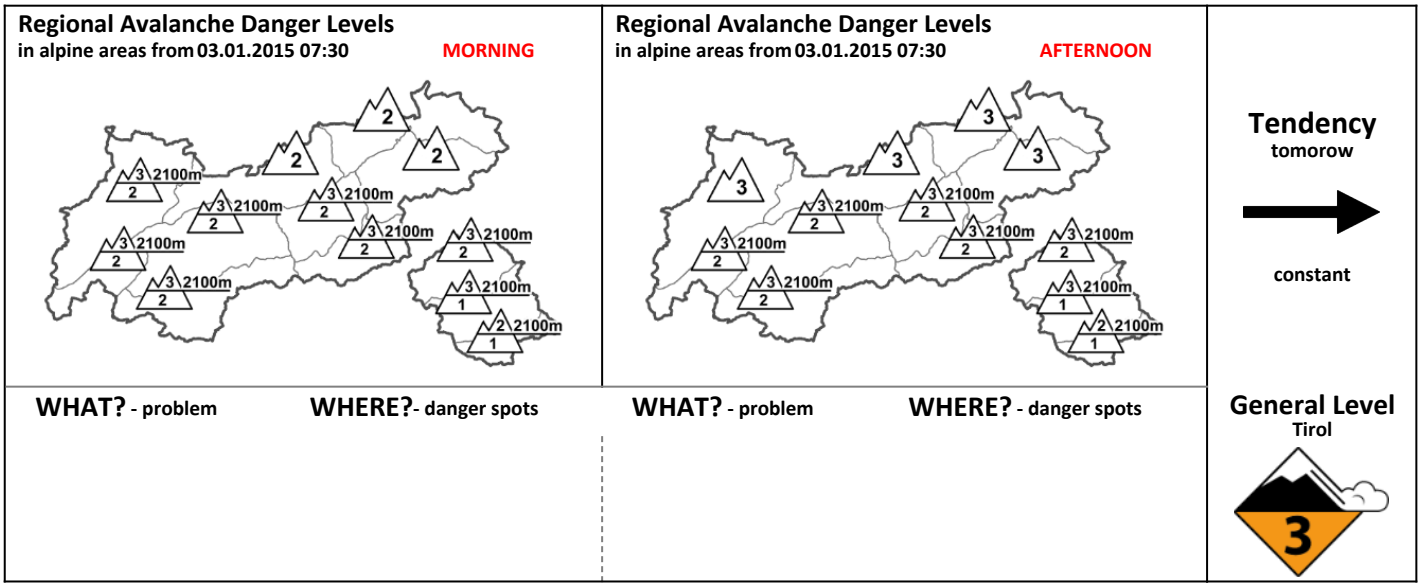
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Saturday, 03.01.2015, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer dp.2 - gliding snow dp.3 - rain

Above 2100m, ongoingly treacherous situation. Beware gliding masses due to rain!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger levels remain considerable, at least above approximately 2100 m; below that altitude the danger level is generally moderate; in southern East Tirol it is low. As the predicted rainfall sets in, danger in those low and intermediate altitude regions of the north where snowfall has been heaviest will also rise to considerable. Increasingly frequent gliding snowslides and sluffs will be likely on steep grass-covered slopes. Numerous avalanches over the last few days, settling ("whumpfing") sounds, some successful artificial triggerings are all indicators that the treacherous situation unfortunately goes on. Danger zones are found above approximately 2100 m in all aspects; on west and east facing slopes primarily above approximately 2300m; on south facing slopes above approximately 2500m; and on shady slopes between about 2200 and 2600m. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. Transition areas from shallow to deep snow have heightened the likelihood of triggering in steep terrain. Snowdrift will accumulate further during the course of the day.

SNOW LAYERING

The period of little-to-no snowfall before Christmas, together with very low temperatures, has unfortunately left its marks on the snowpack, embedded inside of which are increasingly found layers of faceted crystals in all aspects, surrounded by hardened crusts. Stability tests often show a heightened proneness to trigger, which has been amply demonstrated by numerous avalanches. Settling sounds and shooting cracks are further indicators of unfavourable snow layering over widespread areas. On north facing slopes, the heightened likelihood of triggering can be precisely delineated: between 2200 and 2600 m on sunny slopes up to high alpine regions. The snowpack structuring in northeastern regions, where slopes were often bare before Christmas, is more favourable.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A powerful northwesterly air current bringing a weather perturbance will reach the northern rim of Tirol's Alps today. In its wake will follow intense precipitation in northern regions. Storm winds and markedly lower temperatures will follow also in South and East Tirol. In eastern regions, conditions will not improve until the beginning of next week. Mountain weather today: nearly cloudless skies in the peaks to begin with, accompanied by brisk westerly winds. In North Tirol, the high fog will spread out at one's feet. Before midday, high altitude cloud will thicken, winds intensify. A veritable weather crash will follow, including gale strength winds, even reaching the mountains of East and South Tirol. Temperature at 2000m: 0 degrees; at 3000 m: -6 degrees. Initially brisk winds, as of midday increasing to storm velocity, as of this evening severe storm winds reaching gale strength from the west.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As a result of approaching snowfall and storm the treacherous situation continues.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**