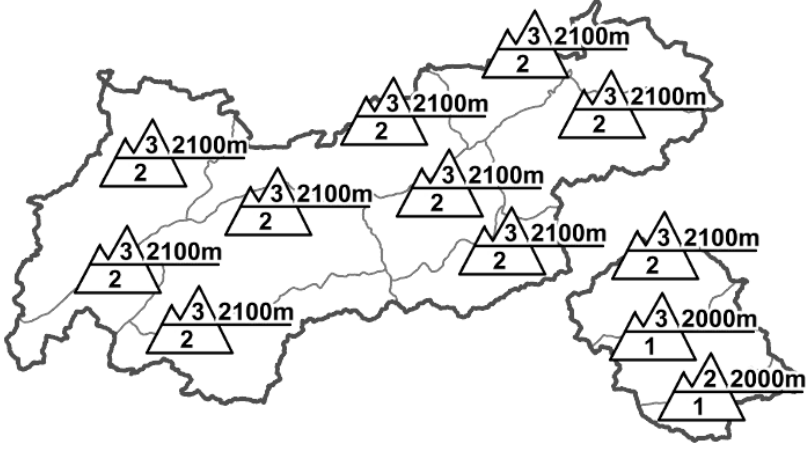





| Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 04.01.2015 07:30 All-Day | WHAT? problem | WHERE? danger spots |
|--|--|--|
|  | <p>General Level Tirol</p>  | <p>Tendency tomorrow</p> <p>→ constant</p> |

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

Ongoing treacherous avalanche situation

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains treacherous for all winter sports participants. Above approximately 2100m the danger lies at critical level 3 (considerable); below that altitude, moderate widespread; in southern East Tirol, low. The delicate situation was amply demonstrated by repeated naturally triggered avalanches during the night due to higher temperatures and rainfall, but also from skiers triggering them, one of which was fatal yesterday in the southern Ötztal Alps. Avalanche prone locations prevail frequently above approximately 2100 m in all aspects. On shady slopes the snowpack is prone to triggering between 2200 and 2600m; in the other aspects, from about 2100 up to high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000m. Due to storm velocity winds, freshly drifted masses have accumulated above approximately 2400m in particular. Gliding avalanches remain a threat on steep, grass-covered slopes, especially in the areas of the north where snowfall has been heavy.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is poorly structured, at least above approximately 2100m. Embedded inside the old snowpack between widespread crusts are loose, faceted crystals, the bonding of the layers to each other is poor, the proneness to triggering continues to be high. This applies currently to all aspects. The structure of the snowpack is better only on shady slopes above approximately 2600m. In addition, snowdrift can release at the transition point to the loosely packed powder above approximately 2400m in particular.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A weather perturbation containing severe storm winds has now passed through, the air current is shifting to northerly and colder air masses will be pushed our way. At the same time, a high pressure zone is approaching from the west. In the early part of the week, sunny winter weather is anticipated. Mountain weather today: The gale winds have ended, the air current is weakening but remains strong-to-stormy, is now shifting to northerly. Barrier cloud will still accumulate, bringing intermittent snow showers. The peaks of North Tirol are generally cloaked in fog today, somewhat freer in the Upper Inn Valley. In the Dolomites it will be very sunny, due to northerly foehn wind. Temperature at 2000m, -9 degrees; at 3000m, -16 degrees. Strong to storm velocity northwesterly to northerly winds at high altitude; northerly foehn wind in East Tirol.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The treacherous situation persists above about 2100m.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe