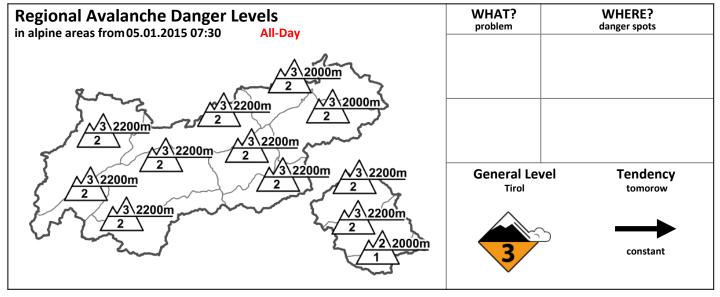


Avalanche Bulletin of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Monday, 05.01.2015, at 07:30 Uhr





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

Treacherous avalanche situation widespread above 2200m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is treacherous above 2200m, the danger level is considerable over wide ranging areas. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering and can release even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects. In isolated cases, avalanches can fracture down to the old snowpack and thereby reach medium size. During the course of the day, caution is urged towards naturally triggered gliding avalanches across steep, grass-covered slopes, particularly in the northern regions where there is lots of snow.

SNOW LAYERING

In the last 24 hours along the Northern Alps in particular, as well as along the Main Alpine Ridge, there has been a small amount of snowfall. High altitude northwesterly to northerly winds were blowing at strong to storm velocity, thus giving rise to far reaching snowdrift accumulations. New fallen and newly drifted snow above approximately 2200m has been deposited on top of a poorly structured old snowpack for the most part: between hardened crusts, layers of faceted crystals are embedded which can serve as a potential bed surface for avalanches. In addition, drifted masses themselves have often been deposited atop loosely packed fresh fallen snow and are thereby prone to triggering. Below approximately 2000m, the snowpack is thoroughly wet in places due to rainfall.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol is wedged between a high over western Europe and a low over eastern Europe, caught in a powerful northerly air current in which the high is gaining in influence. The next (weak) perturbance will arrive on Wednesday night. Mountain weather today: excellent weather conditions in western regions, lots of sunshine. From Karwendel and Stubai Alps eastwards, clouds and fog will persist, but the snow showers slowly recede towards the Tauern range. Temperatures will rise, but be accompanied by strong-to-stormy cold winds. Temperature at 2000m: -4 degrees; at 3000m: -11 degrees. Brisk to strong northerly winds, reaching storm velocity towards the east.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will diminish only incrementally.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe