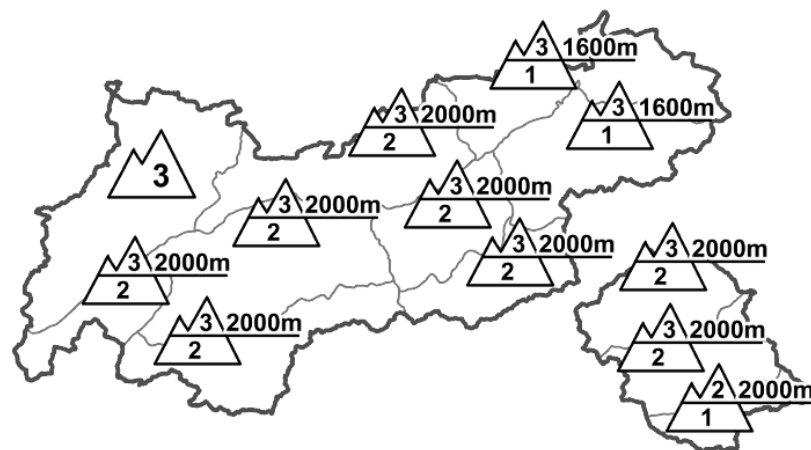












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 12.01.2015 07:30 <span style="color: red;">All-Day</span>	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 1800m  widespread
	 persistent weak layer	 2100m  widespread
<p>General Level Tirol</p> 	<p>Tendency tomorrow</p>  constant	

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold](#)

### Situation above treeline still treacherous: snowdrift and trigger-sensitive snowpack

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol remains delicate far and wide above the treeline, the danger level is considerable. Below the treeline it is mostly moderate. Most critical is the situation in the western regions where snowfall has been heaviest, e.g. Arlberg-Ausserfern, Silvretta-Samnaun, southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, as well as the East Tirolean Tauern. Two problems threaten: a) storm winds have given rise to far reaching snow transport, accumulating snowdrift masses ever anew which are prone to triggering. They are found in all aspects, sometimes even below the treeline, but particularly on NE to E to SE facing slopes above the treeline. b) Not only natural triggerings of the last few days, but also our own snow analysis tests continue to prove heightened proneness to the old snowpack triggering in all aspects. The situation is better only where there was no snow before Christmas, i.e. N and NE regions, or on shady slopes above approximately 2700m where the old snowpack has better layering.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has been enormously impacted by rain, snow and storm winds. Due to striking temperature fluctuations in recent days, there is a thin melt-freeze crust area-wide up to 2500 m. On top of that in many places is loosely packed powder which, in turn, has been blanketed over by freshly accumulated snowdrift, making it prone to triggering. In addition, the old snowpack is poorly structured over widespread areas, at least above approximately 2100 m. Thin crusts alternate with loose, faceted-crystal layers; their bonding is frequently poor, the proneness to triggering high. Furthermore, snow distribution is highly irregular as a result of ever-changing winds.

#### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: dry but windy conditions all day long, stormy at high altitude. Layered cloud cover, most of it above summit altitudes, will impede the sun and create diffuse light on the northern flank of the Alps. This afternoon, some chance of sunshine. On the Main Alpine Ridge, cloud cover will be thin even this morning and it will be quite sunny. Southwards thereof, very sunny. Markedly rising temperatures, the zero-degree level rising to 2500m. Temperature at 2000m, climbing from -10 to +2 degrees; at 3000m, rising from -14 to -3 degrees. Strong northwesterly winds, extremely stormy at high altitudes.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche situation will continue to be treacherous above the treeline.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe