



Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 15.01.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots		
	 persistent weak layer	 2200m central Tirol		
	 drifting snow	 2000m increasingly frequent		
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="975 663 1166 855"> General Level Tirol </td> <td data-bbox="1166 663 1514 855"> Tendency tomorrow constant </td> </tr> </table>		General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow constant
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DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Danger generally considerable above 2200m: fresh snowdrift, trigger-sensitive old snow

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2200m the danger level is frequently considerable; below that altitude, moderate; below the treeline, low danger. The situation in far north and far south is more favourable: the danger level above approximately 2000m is moderate; below that altitude, low. The major peril still stems from a poorly layered snowpack fundament which can release particularly in transitions from shallow to deep snow, especially above approximately 2200m. On sunny slopes, caution is urged up to high altitudes; on shady slopes, up to about 2600m. In addition, fresh snowdrift masses have accumulated which particularly in the Arlberg region require caution.

SNOW LAYERING

During the last 24 hours there has been some snowfall in Tirol, most in the Arlberg region (about 10 cm). Winds transported the snow once again, creating snowdrifts afresh which above approximately 2000m can be triggered at the borderline to the loose new fallen snow beneath them. With ascending altitude their proneness to triggering tends to increase. The major hazard remains the old snowpack which in intermediate layers harbours a series of rain and melt-freeze crusts interspersed with loose, faceted crystals. This applies particularly to altitudes above approximately 2200m; on shady slopes up to about 2600m; in the other aspects up to high alpine regions. Superficial crusts are stabilising the snow cover.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: strong southwesterly winds will push clouds over the summits, making visibility this morning somewhat diffuse, but most will be above summit level. This afternoon the cloud cover will thin out, quite sunny weather will follow on the Main Alpine Ridge, north and south of it as well. Still windy. Mild in wind-protected zones. Tonight, barrier cloud effects will accumulate at the Main Alpine Ridge from the south. Temperature at 2000m, +1 degree; at 3000m, -3 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds, becoming increasingly stormy during the night tonight.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As winds intensify, special caution urged towards snowdrift

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe