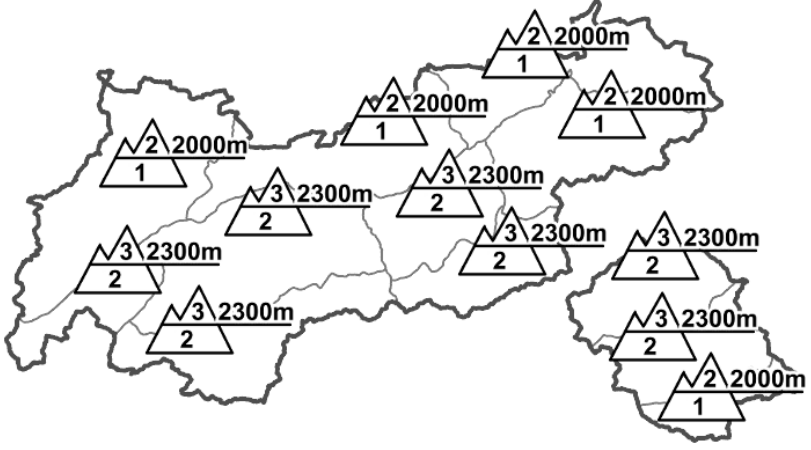










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 16.01.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 persistent weak layer	 2300m central Tirol
	 drifting snow	 2300m at high altitudes
	General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  increasing

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Fresh snowdrift and trigger-sensitive old snow above 2300 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Although danger levels have diminished in recent days, in the central regions of Tirol, i.e. south of the Arlberg, Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps; north of the region "southern East Tirol", the danger level continues to be considerable above approximately 2300m, moderate below that altitude. The main peril stems from the snowpack's poor structuring which on steep slopes in wind-protected zones, particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, can release. Avalanches can then reach medium size, especially in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps as well as in the Silvretta. In addition, strong southerly winds will soon transport snow masses once again. Caution urged in leeward, very steep terrain above approximately 2300 m in particular. With ascending altitude, the likelihood of fresh snowdrift triggering tends to increase. With some experience, the danger zones are easy to recognize.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow quality has deteriorated severely from last weekend's rain and wind. The snowpack surface has a very irregular structure. Wind and ice crusts often lie immediately adjacent to deeply drifted zones. The bonding of fresh snowdrift is usually adequate as a result of the rough old snowpack surface. Only at higher altitudes in regions where the wind had little impact can snowdrift trigger at the borderline to the loosely packed powder beneath it. The old snowpack still consists of a mixture of crusts and faceted crystals. Stability tests continue to show heightened proneness to triggering. Crusts near to the uppermost surface have a stabilising effect.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: storm-strength southerly winds in some places, barrier cloud accumulation on the Main Alpine Ridge from the south giving rise to light snowfall. In the Northern Alps high altitude cloud during the day (above summit level) will create diffuse light conditions. In the Southern Alps, heavily overcast, dense cloud, light precipitation moving in from the west. Snow level as of 1200m. Temperature at 2000m, +1 degree; at 3000m, -5 degrees. Strong to stormy southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowfall will increase avalanche danger levels tomorrow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe