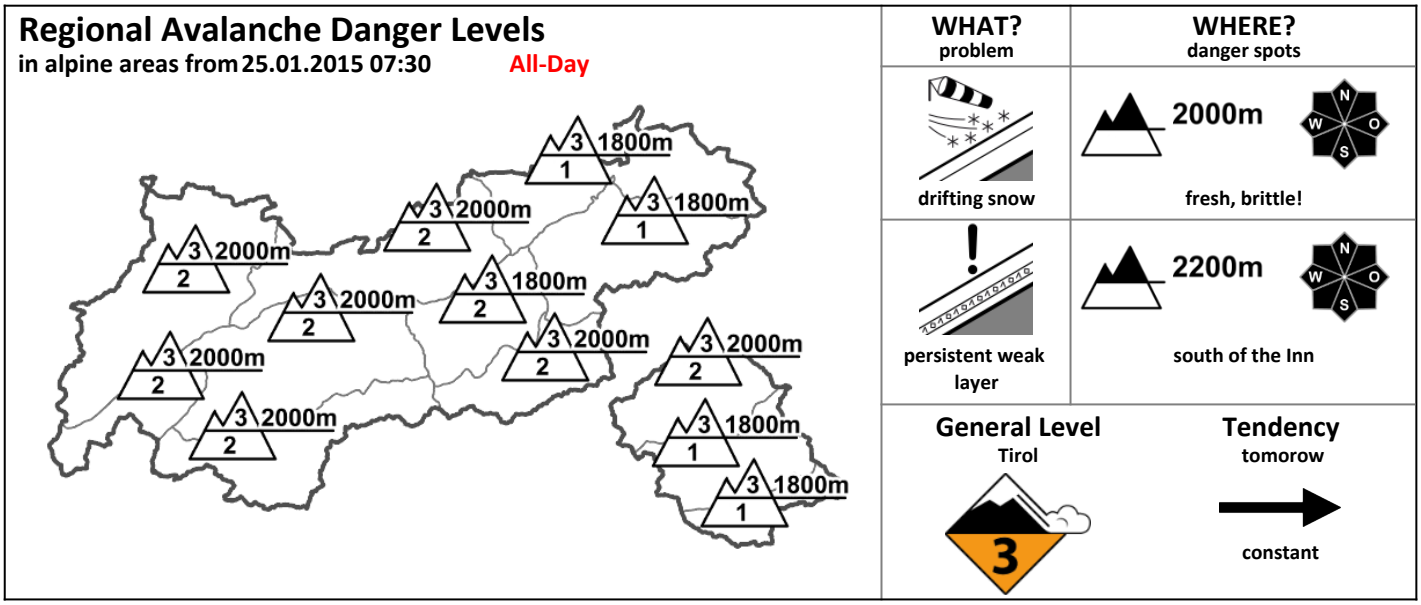
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Sunday, 25.01.2015, at 07:30 Uhr



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

Snowfall+wind = considerable avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The combination of new fallen snow and wind has created a general increase in avalanche danger which now rises to the level 'considerable'. More than anything else it is the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which are brittle and therefore prone to triggering. They can release even by minimum additional loading, i.e. from the weight of one sole skier. Naturally triggered and even remotely triggered avalanches are also possible in isolated cases. If avalanches fracture down into the old snowpack, they can subsequently attain medium size. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000m. Their frequency and spread tend to increase with ascending altitude. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain require much experience in assessing avalanche perils on-site.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night snowfall began across widespread areas of North Tirol and in the East Tirolean Tauern. By midday today, 10-15 cm will have accumulated. Due to the low, wintery temperatures the new fallen snow is dry and loosely packed. High altitude northerly to northeasterly winds are blowing at moderate to brisk velocity, bringing about wide ranging snow transport. Fresh snowdrift is generally being deposited atop a snow cover of loose new fallen snow, making it prone to trigger. In inneralpine touring regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge, in addition, the poor layering of the old snowpack is a threat in itself: interspersed between hardened crusts deeply embedded inside the snowpack, layers of loose, faceted crystals frequently lurk.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Cold, moist arctic air masses are flowing from the north and getting lodged against the barrier of the Alps, bringing some fresh fallen snow and wintery cold temperatures. Tomorrow an intermediate high is expected to interrupt this scenario. But on Tuesday the next front will move in, bringing much more snowfall than the current front. Mountain weather today: moderate snowfall in the mountains during the morning, tapering off this afternoon, amidst icy cold temperatures. Visibility much impeded by cloud and snowfall this morning, somewhat better this afternoon when there will be only light snow showers (particularly in the ranges south of the Inn and on the Main Alpine Ridge). Fresh fallen snow between last night and this evening 5-10 cm; on the northern flank of the Alps, maximum 15 cm. The southern flank of the Alps will get no snow this time. Temperature at 2000m, -12 degrees; at 3000m, -18 degrees. Moderate to brisk northerly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift raises avalanche danger to considerable.

Rudi Mair **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**