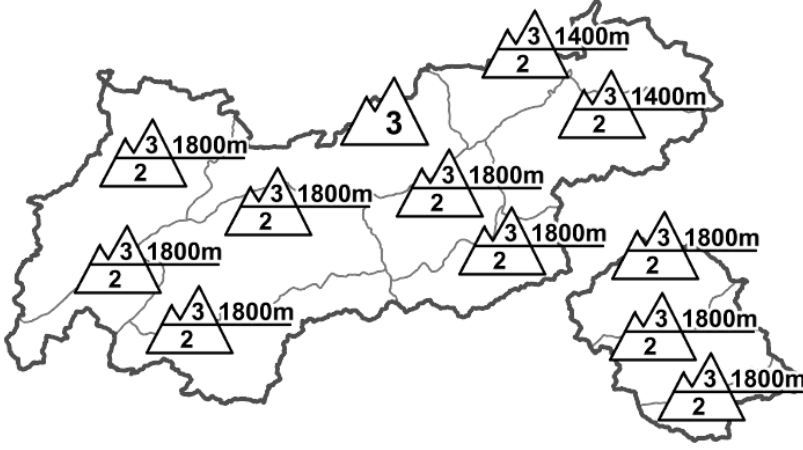












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 28.01.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 1800m  above treeline
	 persistent weak layer	 2000m  south of the Inn
	General Level Tirol  Tendency tomorrow  constant	

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#)

Snowfall-plus-wind creating treacherous avalanche scenario

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger has increased somewhat due to snowfall and winds. Above the treeline it is still considerable (3); below that altitude, generally moderate (2). Two problems dominate the scene: fresh snowdrift and a trigger-sensitive old snowpack. The snowdrift has accumulated throughout Tirol, especially above the treeline. Due to low temperatures, and the fact that surface hoar has been covered, the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations have a heightened proneness to trigger. Their frequency tends to increase with ascending altitude. Danger zones are found in all aspects, particularly behind terrain edges on SW to S to NE facing slopes. Trigger-sensitive old snow is especially prevalent south of the Arlberg, Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps. More than anywhere else in the Tux and Zillertal Alps, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected, due to the burden the new fallen snow has placed on the snowpack beneath it. This is particularly the case on shady slopes between 2000m and 2600m; and on sunny slopes above approximately 2300m. All those in outlying terrain today need to have extensive experience in assessing hazards on-site. And: ski defensively!

SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday there has been snowfall, 30 cm in northern regions, much less in the south (10 cm). Most of the new fallen snow descended in the North Chain (75 cm) and in the eastern sector of the Northern Alps (50 cm). Strong winds transported immense snow masses above the treeline. The snowdrift is quite poorly bonded with the loose, cold powder snow beneath it. In some places the surface hoar was snowed over, further increasing the likelihood of triggering. There are still problems inside the snowpack in the regions south of the Arlberg, Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps on shady slopes between 2000 and 2600m; on sunny slopes above approximately 2300m. The snowpack can release in places where the snow is shallow in particular.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: snow showers will taper off this morning, clouds and residual fog recede, visibility improve. Dense cloud will persist above summit level, creating diffuse light conditions. Temperatures will rise this afternoon. More sunshine in the Southern Alps. Temperature at 2000m, -6 degrees; at 3000m, -12 degrees. Moderate northerly winds to start with, later on becoming brisker and shifting to westerly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Intensifying winds will give rise to further snowdrift accumulations during the day.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe