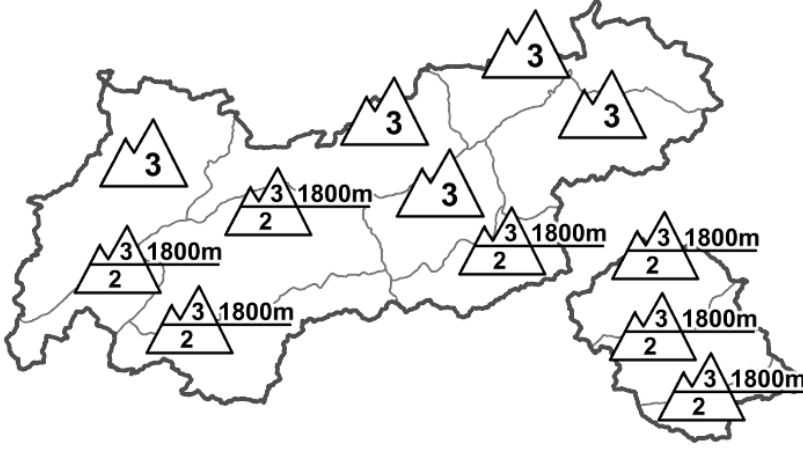












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 29.01.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 1800m  above treeline
	 persistent weak layer	 2000m  south of the Inn
	General Level Tirol  Tendency tomorrow  constant	

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Avalanche scenario still treacherous, especially above the treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

More snowfall, together with storm-strength winds, dominates the regions of the north where snowfall has been heavy, creating a delicate avalanche situation. Danger levels above the treeline have reached level 3; if precipitation is heavy, level 4 could be reached in the Arlberg, Ausserfern regions. Just like yesterday, naturally triggered, generally small-sized avalanches are expected today on wind-protected, very steep slopes. The likelihood of triggering will tend to increase over the course of the day due to rising temperatures. At lower altitudes, gliding avalanches are possible over steep, grass-covered slopes. Further south, where there has been less snowfall in recent days, the trigger-sensitive old snowpack is an additional risk factor, apart from freshly accumulated snowdrift. Particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, it can be triggered even by minimum additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

In many sectors of North Tirol it has begun to snow again. Winds are intensifying. Thus, a similar scenario is again arising: cold, loose powder snow is being blanketed by freshly transported snowdrift. The bonding of the newly drifted snow to the cold powder snow beneath it is poor. The old snow closer to the ground, especially south of the Arlberg, Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps on shady slopes between 2000m and 2600m (on sunny slopes above approximately 2300m) has layers of loose, faceted crystals interspersed between embedded crusts deep down inside it - prone to triggering! In addition, near the rain crusts which formed at the beginning of January, snow is transforming, crystals are faceting, thus providing an additional bed surface for slab avalanches (usually below 2500 m).

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: frequently stormy. Visibility severely impeded by fog and cloud, particularly at higher altitudes. Snowfall expected over widespread areas. This afternoon, precipitation will slacken off markedly. In the Southern Alps, clouds only above the summits, good visibility, denser cloud cover moving in this afternoon. Temperature at 2000m, -8 degrees; at 3000m, -14 degrees. Brisk westerly to southwesterly winds (strong to stormy at high altitudes).

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The delicate snowdrift scenario continues.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe