



Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 08.02.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 1800m fresh, brittle!
	 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.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Considerable avalanche danger widespread. Fresh drifts from stormy northwind!

AVALANCHE DANGER

A small amount of fresh fallen snow and storm velocity northerly winds have ratcheted up avalanche danger, which above 1800m is at the upper border of "considerable". The snowdrift accumulations ongoingly formed afresh are brittle, can release as avalanches even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier is sufficient. In isolated cases, releases can fracture deeper down inside the snowpack and release far greater masses, creating avalanches reaching medium size. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above the treeline. Transitions from shallow to deep snow and deeply drifted gullies and bowls need to be cautiously evaluated on-site. Beware: frequency and spread of danger zones will increase over the course of the day today, backcountry touring possibilities are severely limited.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack surface currently bears heavy marks of wind impact: utterly windblown or hardened surfaces are often found directly adjacent to deeply drifted areas. In wind-protected zones there is still loose powder. Inside the old snowpack, layers of faceted crystals are interspersed between hardened crusts. A small amount of new fallen snow, but more than anything else the storm-strength northerly winds, will bring about a new round of snow transport today. The accumulated drifts are very brittle, due to the extremely low temperatures. Since they are also being deposited on a loosely packed snowbase (on shady slopes, atop a layer of surface hoar) their proneness to triggering is correspondingly high.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A pack of cold air has hit eastern Europe. This in turn enables a powerful northerly air current to reach Tirol inside of which a cold front (today) and a warm front (tomorrow) are embedded. Clouds, winds and light-to-moderate snowfall are the result. Mountain weather today: storm winds in the mountains, especially in East Tirol. Poor visibility everywhere. East of the Brenner, up to 20 cm of new fallen snow; elsewhere, usually 10 cm. All of it will be intensely transported. Temperatures have already dropped markedly. The cold combined with the wind will make it exceedingly unpleasant in the mountains today. Temperature at 2000m, -13 degrees; at 3000m, -21 degrees. Strong northerly winds at high altitudes; blowing at storm strength from the Brenner eastwards; stormy Tauern winds in East Tirol.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Stormy north wind+fresh snowdrift = increased avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe