
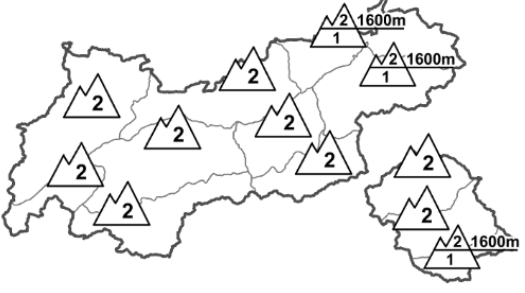
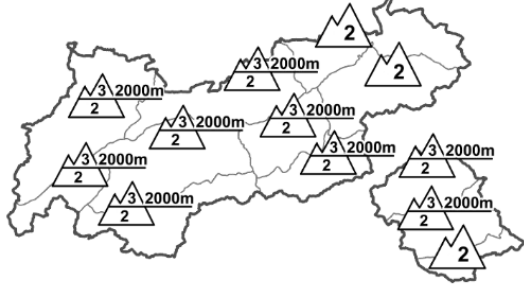











Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 12.02.2015 07:30 MORNING		Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 12.02.2015 07:30 AFTERNOON		Tendency tomorrow  constant
				
WHAT? - problem  persistent weak layer	WHERE? - danger spots  1800m  n. slopes initially	WHAT? - problem  wet snow	WHERE? - danger spots  1800m  south facing slopes	General Level Tyrol 

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#)

Beware daytime cycle of danger levels

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is contingent not only on altitude, but also on time of day. This morning, danger levels are now moderate widespread (also low, beneath 1600m). During the day as the sun moistens the snowpack, dangers will increase: above approximately 2000m to considerable, below that altitude to moderate. Danger zones in the morning are found on very steep shady slopes above about 1800m, especially frequent up to about 2600m, then above that altitude particularly in ridgeline terrain. As of late morning, very steep sunny slopes are perilous, especially above about 2000m. Avalanches are easiest to trigger in transitions from shallow to deep snow. The general rule: avalanches can mostly trigger by large additional loading, although in some cases, even minimum additional loading is sufficient. Furthermore, on steep, grassy slopes, gliding avalanches threaten, i.e. the ones that slide away at ground level.

SNOW LAYERING

Snow quality has deteriorated over the last few days. On sunny slopes, often breakable melt-freeze crusts except where snow is shallower, on very steep, south facing slopes around 2000m, where the crusts can frequently bear loads. Elsewhere the snowpack above the treeline bears heavy marks of wind impact. Weak layers inside the snowpack: in all aspects, thin crusts interspersed with faceted crystals. Their bonding has improved somewhat in the interim, particularly on sunny slopes, due to the warmth of recent days; nonetheless, nests of depth hoar which are notorious fracture propagators, still threaten.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a powerful high dominates central Europe. It is slowly moving eastwards, so that a southwesterly airstream will reach the Alps by the weekend. Mountain weather today: blue skies, sunshine, outstanding visibility, mild temperatures. In a word: superb conditions for winter sports. Temperature at 2000m, +2 degrees; at 3000m, -3 degrees. Light southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will continue to slowly subside.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe