



Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 15.02.2015 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots		
	 persistent weak layer	 1800m shady slopes		
	 gliding snow	 2300m grassy slopes		
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DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1](#) - deep persistent weak layer [dp.7](#) - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding [dp.2](#) - gliding snow

Moderate danger above 1800m. Caution on steep, shady slopes.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above approximately 1800m moderate danger prevails; below that altitude the danger level is low. Caution urged especially towards very steep, shady terrain above the treeline to about 2600m, where the snowpack on very steep, unfrequented slopes in particular can be triggered by large (in isolated cases by minimum) additional loading. Especially sensitive are the transitions from shallow to deep snow. Above 2600m, isolated, small, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations near ridgelines require caution. On sunny slopes, the snowpack has settled and stabilized further. Avalanches can be released by large additional loading above about 2400m in steep terrain, particularly in transitions from shallow to deep snow. This is frequently the case on west and east facing slopes. In northern regions, isolated, generally small gliding avalanches have been observed on steep, grass-covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

As observers have reported, there is an increasing amount of snow which is "not much fun". On the snowpack surface, increasingly frequent melt-freeze crusts have been created by winds or solar radiation, powder has receded to the wind-protected, shady terrain. Melt-freeze crusts which are capable of bearing loads are found primarily on very steep, sunny slopes around 2000m. These can (in wind protected terrain) give rise to firn snow in northern regions. Weak layers inside the old snowpack are still evident: faceted crystals interspersed between thin crusts. Stability tests point to an increase in sturdiness inside the snowpack, but wherever snow is shallow, nests of depth hoar still lurk which could propagate fractures.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: ongoing winds, bothersome in northern regions. Across the entire southern flank of the Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge, poor visibility due to dense cloud, fog and intermittent light snowfall. Further to the north and east, foehn-induced sunshine. Temperature at 2000m, -2 degrees; at 3000m, -9 degrees. Moderate southerly to southeasterly winds, in the foehn-exposed regions of North Tirol reaching strong velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In high alpine regions, small snowdrift accumulations will form. As weather improves, the snowpack will stabilize.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe