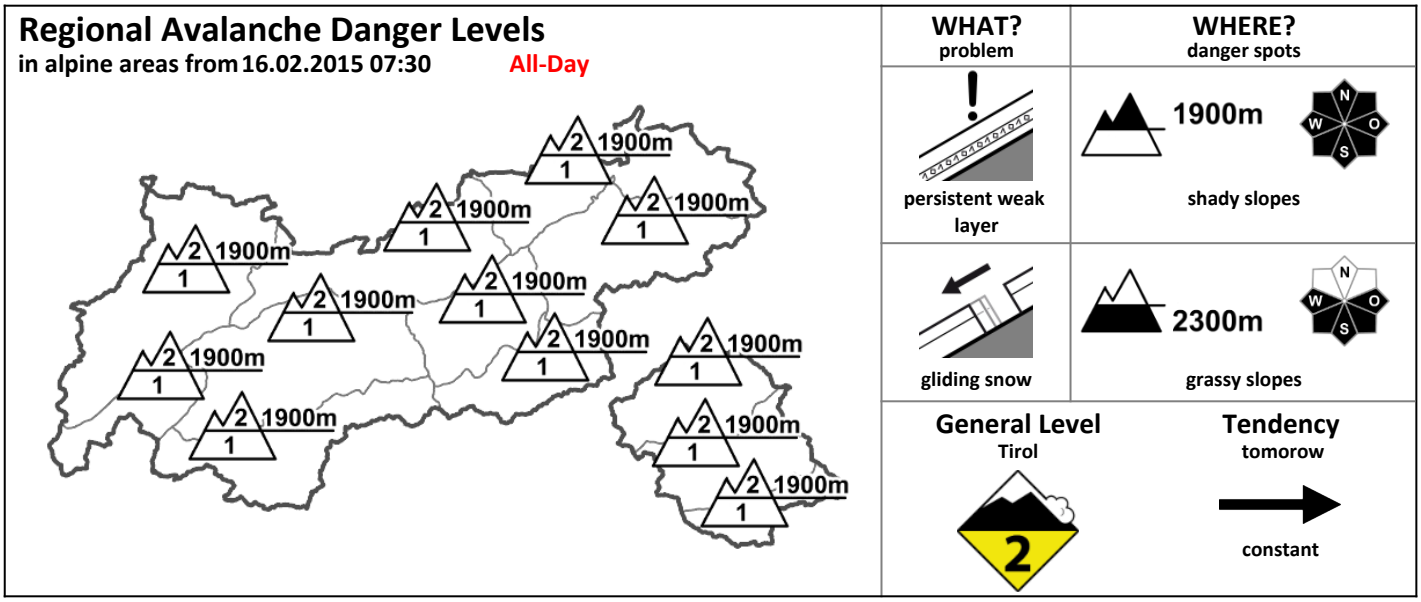
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Monday, 16.02.2015, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding dp.2 - gliding snow

Above 1900m, moderate danger; below 1900 m, low danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Above approximately 1900m moderate danger prevails; below that altitude the danger level is low. Slab avalanches likeliest in steep, shady terrain between about 1900m up 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, where nests of depth hoar still lurk. Caution urged towards small drifts along the Main Alpine Ridge in high alpine, shady, ridgeline terrain. 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

Tensions inside the snowpack are slowly subsiding, but there are still bed surfaces evident where slab avalanches can fracture in the old snowpack: faceted crystals or small nests of depth hoar between thin crusts. Stability tests show increasing stabilisation of the snowpack, but some layers are poorly bonded to each other and could propagate fractures. The snowpack surface is highly irregular: melt-freeze crusts, breakable crusts, some powder. On very steep south facing slopes, firn snow could form over the course of the day today.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps, very sunny winter weather, outstanding visibility. On the southern flank of the Alps, regional cloud to begin with, extending up to 2500m, later dispersing and making way for the sun. Winds much quieter than yesterday. Temperature at 2000m, -6 to -1 degree; milder in the north than in the south; at 3000m, -10 to -6 degrees. Light winds for the most part, only in foehn-exposed zones will SE winds blow at moderate velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing improvement in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**