
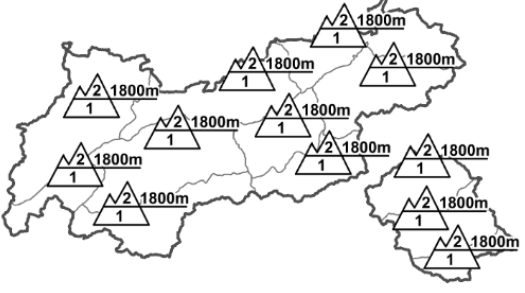
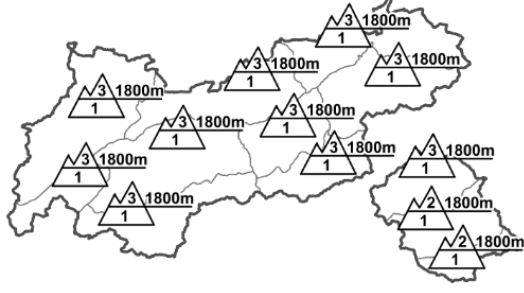











Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 21.02.2015 07:30 MORNING		Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 21.02.2015 07:30 AFTERNOON		Tendency tomorrow  increasing
				
WHAT? - problem  drifting snow	WHERE? - danger spots  1800m  freshly formed	WHAT? - problem  persistent weak layer	WHERE? - danger spots  2200m  shady slopes	General Level Tirol 

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#)

Fresh snowdrift: increasing avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions will increase during the course of the day: in the early morning hours moderate widespread; by late morning often considerable (level 3). The storm-strength foehn winds are responsible for this. Loose snow will be transported, fresh, rather small-sized snowdrift masses will accumulate. As they will be deposited on top of an old snowpack which is itself prone to triggering, even minimum additional loading will frequently be sufficient to trigger an avalanche. Danger zones are found on steep slopes in all aspects above the treeline. Drifted gullies and bowls, as well as in general transitions from shallow to deep snow, need to be evaluated especially critically. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain require experience in assessing avalanche hazards on-site.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack surface is highly varied and irregular, even over smallest stretches: windblown or wind-compressed zones often lie immediately adjacent to melt-freeze crusts. In wind-protected terrain there is still loosely packed powder. Caution: following recent nights of clear skies, surface hoar formed. The stormy foehn winds will now give rise to fresh, relatively small-sized snowdrift accumulations. Wherever these drifted masses are deposited atop a loosely packed old snowpack or atop surface hoar, it will be prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tirol lies in a southwesterly air current. A weak cold front will pass through during the night tonight, simultaneously a low pressure zone will form over Italy. The weather will become unstable, temperatures drop. Mountain weather today: very windy in the mountains, high clouds in the Northern Alps (generally above summit level) will create diffuse light conditions. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps, cloud will lodge against the alpine barrier, in the Southern Alps there could be some snow showers. Colder. Temperature at 2000m, -4 degrees; at 3000m, -9 degrees. Brisk to strong southerly winds, stronger in the typical foehn-exposed zones.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Some snowfall, stormy foehn = heightened avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe