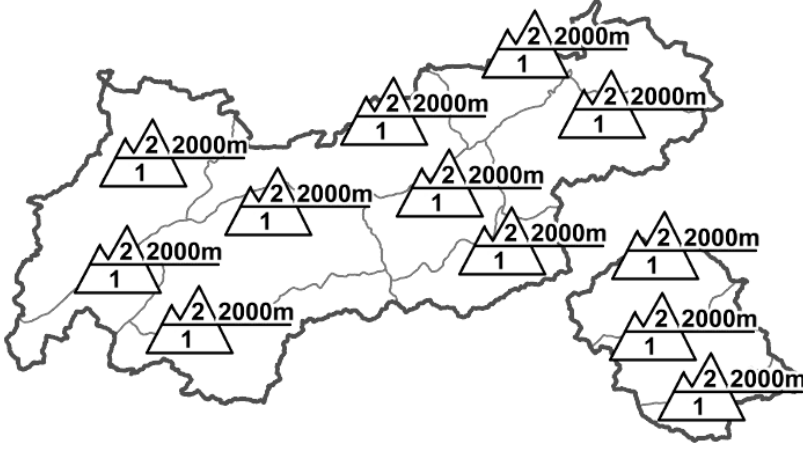










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 24.02.2015 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 drifting snow	 2000m ridgeline slopes
		 persistent weak layer	 2600m isolated
General Level Tirol 		Tendency tomorrow  constant	

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Beware fresh drifts in ridgeline and steep shady terrain

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche scenario is still quite favourable in spite of the snowfall. Above approximately 2000m moderate danger prevails; below that altitude, low danger. Avalanche prone locations are found in freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. Most caution is called for in shady, ridgeline steep terrain where surface hoar has often been blanketed by snowdrifts. In these generally small-sized spots, even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. In addition, caution is urged towards the drifted masses which will form today at high altitudes as a result of intensifying northerly winds, especially in very steep ridgeline terrain. On the other hand, the old snowpack is unlikely to trigger; if it does, then in very steep, shady terrain around 2600m and in sunny terrain above approximately 2800m in transitions from shallow to deep snow (by large additional loading).

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been just under 10 cm of snowfall above approximately 1000m; below that altitude it was rainfall. Winds were light, but are expected to intensify today. Recently formed drifts, especially above the treeline and in ridgeline terrain, are easily triggered since surface hoar lurks beneath them, providing bed surfaces for gliding masses. In high alpine regions, fresh snowdrifts can glide over loosely packed powder snow, particularly on SW to S to SE facing slopes. Weak layers inside the old snowpack no longer tend towards fracture propagation; only where snow is shallow is the depth hoar a possible threat.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a gloomy day with snowfall and lots of fog in the mountains, poor visibility. Another 5-15 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated by evening, focal point in the central Alps and towards the lowlands. Temperature at 2000m, -8 degrees; at 3000m, -15 degrees. Intensifying northerly winds over the course of the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Major peril is still fresh snowdrift

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe