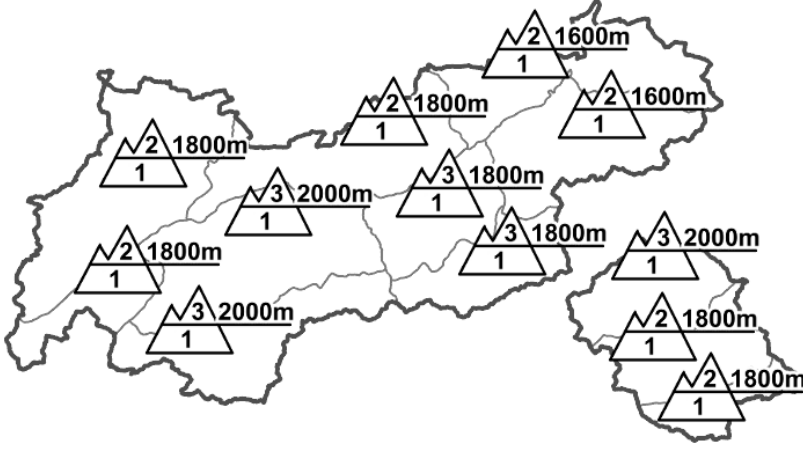












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 25.02.2015 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 drifting snow	 1800m  ridgeline slopes
		 persistent weak layer	 2600m  isolated
General Level Tirol 		Tendency tomorrow  constant	

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#)

Major peril: fresh, small drifts

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Above 2000m the danger level is considerable; below that altitude, low. The major hazards stem from recently formed, usually small-sized snowdrift accumulations. They are most easily triggered in shady, steep terrain near the treeline and on ridgeline slopes, where they were deposited on top of an insufficiently thick layer of surface hoar (now blanketed over) which can serve as a bed surface for avalanche fractures. In those places, even minimum additional loading can trigger small slab avalanches. In addition, caution is urged towards snowdrifts near ridgelines, particularly in sunny terrain. The old snowpack is not likely to release, except possibly in unfrequented, steep, shady terrain around 2600m in transitions from shallow to deep snow or on sunny slopes above approximately 2800m, by large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been snowfall in Tirol, most of it in the Stubai, Tux and Zillertal Alps (appx. 20 cm). Winds were blowing at just above transport velocity, thus bringing about fresh snowdrifts over widespread areas. A potential bed surface for avalanches is provided by the surface hoar in shady terrain near the treeline and in shady, ridgeline terrain. In addition, the borderline between the freshly deposited drifts and the loose, cold powder beneath it (at high altitudes) is a possible bed surface for small-sized slab avalanches. The higher you venture, the more prone to triggering the snowpack is.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Poor visibility due to heavy cloud and dense fog. Cold. A few snowflakes may fall from the sky on the northern flank of the Alps, but will not amount to much. Possibly brighter skies this afternoon in the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge. Tonight, skies will clear. Temperature at 2000m, -8 degrees; at 3000m, -15 degrees. Light to moderate northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The major danger still stems from relatively small snowdrift accumulations.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe