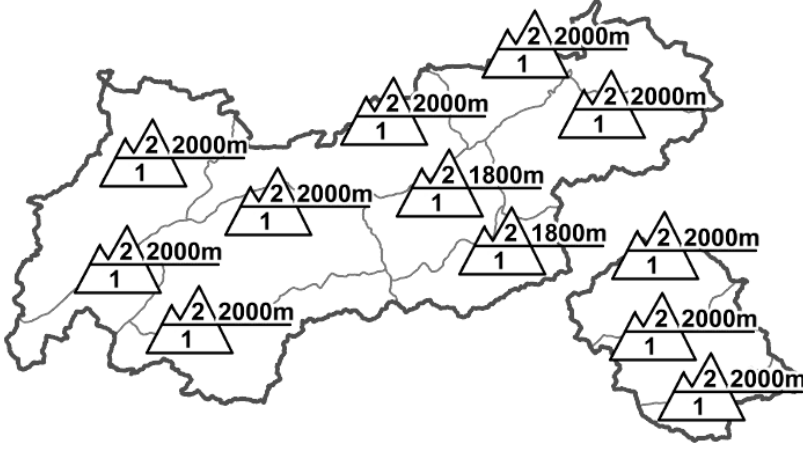










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 27.02.2015 07:30 <span style="color: red;">All-Day</span>		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 drifting snow	 2000m ridgeline slopes
		 persistent weak layer	 2600m isolated
		<b>General Level</b> Tirol 	<b>Tendency</b> tomorrow  constant

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

## Major danger: ridgeline snowdrifts at high altitude

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Generally quite favourable conditions prevail today. The danger above approximately 2000m is moderate; below that altitude, low. The scenario in the classic foehn lanes is less favourable: above the treeline danger zones are far more prevalent. The major peril stems from recently formed, usually shallow snowdrift accumulations, most prevalent at high altitudes near ridgelines in steep terrain. Their proneness to triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude. Elsewhere, isolated danger zones in wind-exposed terrain on shady, steep slopes, most often near the treeline, where small avalanches can release from blanketed surface hoar even from the weight of one sole skier. The old snowpack is unlikely to trigger, at most above approximately 2600m in spots where the snow is shallow, by large additional loading.

### SNOW LAYERING

Internal tensions of the snow cover are low overall, excluding recently formed snowdrift accumulations. The drifts can release from the surface hoar layer on which they sit, most prevalent in shady, sparsely wooded terrain and on shady ridgeline slopes. They can also trigger at the borderline to the loose powder snow beneath them, particularly on sunny ridgeline slopes (due to recent northerly winds). Stability tests demonstrate that the fractures inside the old snowpack no longer tend to propagate. The depth hoar deep down inside the snowpack is the weakest point.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: layers of cirrus cloud over the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge and Lechtal Alps will bring about diffuse light conditions and some high altitude fog. The floor of the cloud cover will drop incrementally lower and light snowfall will set in. The eastern ranges (Karwendel to Tux and Zillertal Alps as far as the Tauern and Carnic Alps) will initially be foehn-influenced and dry. By tomorrow morning, 10-15 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated in the Lechtal Alps; 5-10 cm elsewhere. Temperature at 2000m, -3 degrees; at 3000m, -10 degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds to start with, only in the foehn lanes will wind be stronger; brisker this afternoon in the Lechtal Alps.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As winds intensify, new snowdrifts will accumulate. Caution at high altitudes!

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe