



Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 05.01.2016 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		<p>drifting snow</p>	<p>2000m</p> <p>increasing with altitude</p>
		<p>persistent weak layer</p>	<p>2200m</p> <p>small nests</p>
<p>General Level Tirol</p>		<p>Tendency tomorrow</p> <p>constant</p>	

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

Beware snowdrifts. Considerable danger in Arlberg region above 2000m.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Whereas avalanche danger in most parts of Tirol is low, possible avalanche peril threatens in the west, in the Arlberg region in particular, where the danger level above 2000m is considerable (below 2000m, low). In Ausserfern, the western sector of the Northern Alps and the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge from Silvretta to the Zillertal Alps, the danger level above approximately 2200m is moderate; below that altitude, low. Caution urged towards the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, especially in very steep, shady slopes: they can be triggered (as corroborated by artificial triggerings and those released by skiers recently). The avalanche prone locations are usually small-sized and easily recognizable, generally limited to gullies, bowls and areas adjacent to ridgelines. The frequency of danger zones tends to increase with ascending altitude.

SNOW LAYERING

There is still too little snow for this juncture of the season. Western regions have caught up with the calendar a little: about 20 cm of fresh fallen snow, decreasing as you move eastwards. The cause of current avalanche danger lies in the structure of the old snowpack on shady slopes: wherever there was no wind during snowfall, the snowpack is generally loosely packed and faceted, a potential gliding surface for slab avalanches. Above approximately 3300m there is a weak layer also on sunny slopes. The proneness to triggering is high in some places, the breadth of the released snow masses, however, is not deep except in the Arlberg region.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the persistent western airstream will bring a series of weak perturbances over the next few days, with sunny interims and less humid air in the mountains. Mountain weather today: bright intervals this morning, heavier cloud moving in from the west as the day progresses, bringing some light snowfall (about 5 cm; on the Main Alpine Ridge 10 cm). Around midday the precipitation will reach the southern flank of the Alps. Later in the day, skies will again brighten in western regions. Temperature at 2000m: -4 degrees; at 3000m: -12 degrees. Moderate to strong westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Continued caution urged towards fresh snowdrift accumulations at high altitude.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe