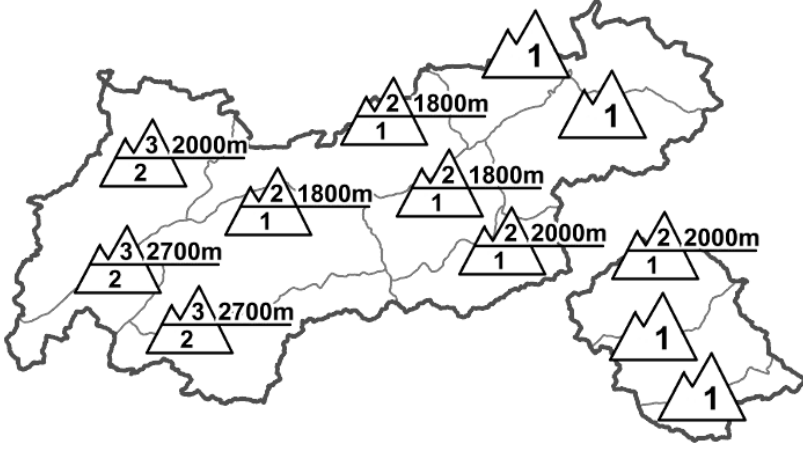

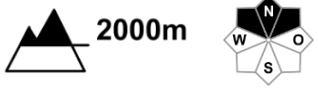

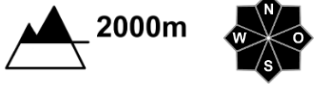






Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 08.01.2016 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 persistent weak layer	 2000m shady bowls
		 drifting snow	 2000m esp. western regions
General Level Tirol 		Tendency tomorrow  constant	

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

Fresh snowdrifts easily triggered

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger continues to be higher in western than in eastern regions, the most perilous are the Arlberg and western Ausserfern. In the Arlberg region above approximately 2000m, the danger is considerable; below the treeline, generally low. In the Silvretta-Samnaun, southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps the danger above about 2700m is also considerable. Elsewhere, the danger level above the treeline is usually moderate; below that altitude, low. Yesterday very strong high altitude winds transported large amounts of powder snow, deposited it in bowls, gullies and behind terrain protruberances. On steep slopes, even minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole person, is sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. The danger zones occur increasingly on steep, shady slopes above about 2000m, where snowdrift has been deposited atop loosely-packed old snow. In addition, caution is also urged towards the drifts in other aspects, particularly where they were deposited on top of loose powder snow. The drifted masses are still small, except for in western regions, but their spread increases with ascending altitude.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday's snowfall brought an additional few centimeters of new fallen snow, most of which fell in western regions (10 cm). The snowfall level rose to about 1800m in some places. The increasingly strong winds made great impact, massively transporting the fresh fallen snow. Weak layers which could trigger a slab avalanche are the loose, faceted layers on shady slopes above approximately 2000m, in high alpine regions also found on sunny slopes. In addition, loose powder snow was often blanketed by snowdrifts yesterday: this, too, is weak. Settling noises ("whumpf") and shooting cracks are sure indicators of a highly trigger-sensitive snowpack. Snow depths are below average in many areas, the snow cover at high altitudes shows great wind influence.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: visibility will be limited to start with, due to residual cloud and fog, even a few snow flurries. But during the day visibility will improve in all mountain ranges, with short bursts of sunshine highly likely. This afternoon, skies between Ortler and Zugspitze will soon be covered with clouds, diffuse light conditions return, but the peaks will probably remain in the clear. At ridgelines of the Northern Alps, storm-strength winds. Temperature at 2000m: -2 degrees; at 3000m: -8 degrees. Westerly to southwesterly winds blowing at moderate to strong velocity, on the northern rim of the Alps sometimes reaching storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Steep, drifted, shady slopes are the main risk.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe