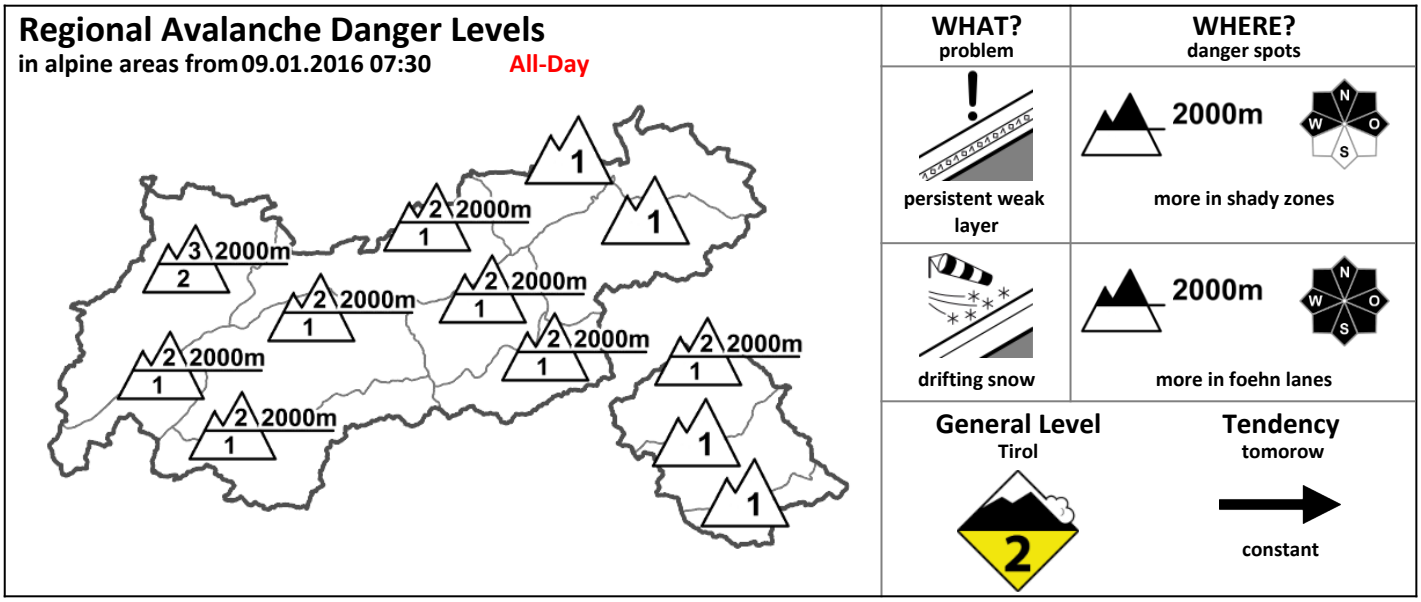
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Saturday, 09.01.2016, at 07:30 Uhr



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

Main danger: snowdrifts atop loose old snow above the treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

In spite of still limited touring and freeriding possibilities, avalanche danger above the treeline should not be underestimated. The peril in the Arlberg region and in western Ausserfern above approximately 2000m is considerable; below that altitude, moderate; below the treeline, low. Elsewhere in North Tirol, moderate danger prevails far and wide above the treeline; below the treeline, low. In the Kitzbühel Alps and eastern sector of the Northern Alps and in most parts of East Tirol the danger level is low. The overall situation is trecherous: because of the lack of snow, one is "drawn" to drifted gullies, bowls and areas adjacent to ridgelines, where snowdrift accumulations have recently been deposited atop loosely packed old snow. The snowdrifts are generally shallow (except for in the furthermost western regions); nonetheless, they are very easy to trigger, usually with minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole person. This is increasingly the case in W to N to E aspects. Unfortunately, snow profile analysis has shown that even southern aspects above approximately 2000m have freshly formed drifts deposited on loose snow which can trigger. With backcountry experience, danger zones can ordinarily be recognized.

SNOW LAYERING

Below average snow depths continue and the snow cover is usually heavily marked by winds. That means bare spots and deeply drifted zones are frequently right next to each other. Settling noises ("whumpf") and shooting cracks are everywhere in outlying terrain, especially prevalent above approximately 2000m. Inside the snowpack over widespread areas are layers of loose, faceted crystals, quite often surrounded by thin wind crusts or melt-freeze crusts. Stability tests reveal a high likelihood of triggering. This is the case on shady slopes above approximately 2000m and is increasingly true for south-facing slopes. However, in southern aspects a deep enough snowpack to make it critical is usually lacking.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: generally poor visibility in the mountains, repeated snowfall particularly the Northern Alps. During the day, precipitation will spread to the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards thereof; ultimately it will reach the Carnic Alps, Zillertal Alps on the Main Ridge and Tux Alps. By Saturday night, an additional 10 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated. Thus, the snow cover is building up incrementally. Temperature at 2000m: 0 degrees; at 3000m: -4 degrees. Southwesterly winds blowing at moderate strength; in foehn lanes and along ridgelines blowing at strong velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In foehn lanes, more snow transport

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