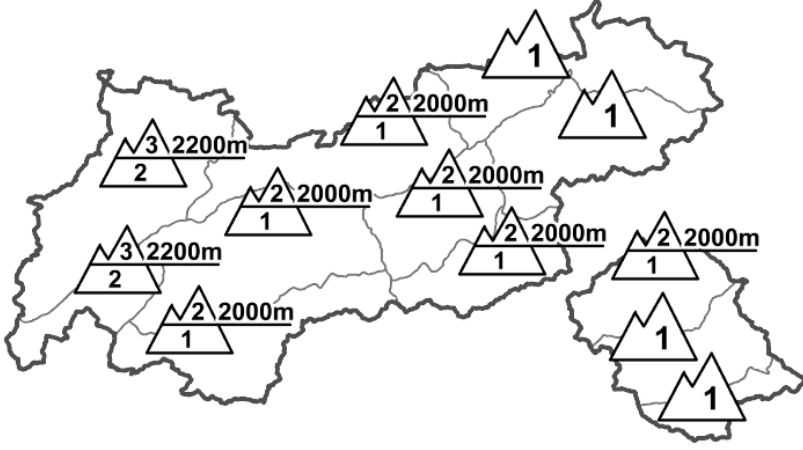












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 10.01.2016 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 persistent weak layer	 2000m  shady slopes
		 drifting snow	 2300m  foehn lanes
		General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  increasing

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

Above 2000m: beware snowdrifts on trigger-sensitive old snow

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains higher in western than in eastern parts of Tirol. In the Arlberg region and in western Ausserfern above approximately 2200m the danger is considerable; below that altitude, moderate; below the treeline, low. Elsewhere in North Tirol, moderate danger prevails far and wide above the 2000m; below that altitude, low. In the furthest eastern regions of Tirol and in most parts of East Tirol the danger level is low. Caution is urged towards the recently formed snowdrift accumulations which were deposited on top of loosely-packed old snow. Massive drifts have formed primarily in gullies, bowls and behind terrain protruberances. This applies particularly to steep W/N/E slopes above about 2000m. Stability tests, reports from backcountry skiers and freeriders confirm heightened proneness to triggering of the snow cover. Even minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole person, is frequently enough to trigger a slab avalanche. The avalanches in western regions are generally large enough to bury persons; further east, the hazards of injury and falling outweigh avalanche perils. At higher altitudes on south-facing slopes, in addition, the fresh snowdrift is also a threat.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday there was rainfall up to about 2000m, above that altitude approximately 10 cm of snowfall was deposited (in the East Tirolean Tauern locally as much as 20 cm of new fallen snow) most of it with very little wind influence. Thus, the recently formed snowdrift accumulations have now been blanketed by fresh fallen snow, making it far more difficult to evaluate the danger on-site. Above about 2000m, the snowpack usually consists of a series of thin crusts and layers of loose snow crystals, beneath which there is little or no snow (except in the furthest western regions). Stability tests have shown that the drifts are often very inadequately bonded with the loose layers below them. Shooting cracks, settling noises ("whumpf") as well as reports from individuals of remote triggerings corroborate the poor snowpack structuring. It is only due to the general lack of snow atop the weak layers that the risk is lesser than it might be.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: this morning east of the Karwendel as far as the Tux and Zillertal Alps, a chance of sunshine. The sea of fog hovers, but should soon be penetrated by a few sunny holes. In the course of the day, higher altitude cloud will move in, diffuse light conditions will prevail, snow flurries are possible especially on the Main Alpine Ridge or in the Lechtal Alps. Most regions, however, are expected to remain dry until sundown. Winds will intensify significantly during the day. Temperature at 2000m: -1 degree; at 3000m: -7 degrees. Winds will be southwesterly, in high altitude ridgeline areas and foehn lanes blowing at strong to storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasing danger, due to snowfall and strong wind.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe