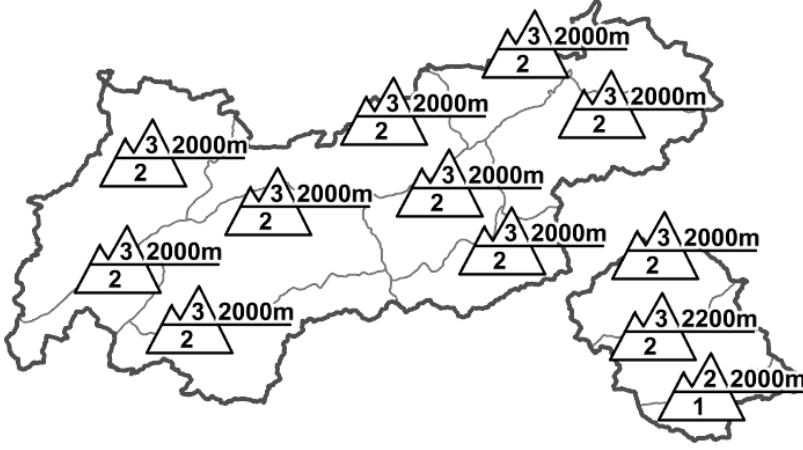

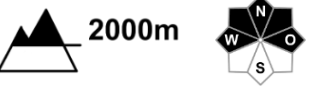








Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 20.01.2016 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 persistent weak layer	 2000m esp. shady slopes
	 drifting snow	 1800m increasing with altitude
General Level Tirol 		Tendency tomorrow  constant

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1](#) - deep persistent weak layer [dp.6](#) - loose snow and wind [dp.2](#) - gliding snow

Beware trigger-sensitive old snow and fresh drifts!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation remains tense and threatening, at least above 2000m. In many places, a critical grade Level 3 has been reached in which avalanches can trigger even by minimum additional loading. Most critical is the old snow risk above about 2000m (in the Arlberg region above about 2200m) in W/NW to N to W/NE aspects. Above about 2800m the risk prevails even on sunny slopes. The ground-level, loose layer is weak, can easily trigger. This is also possible in flat terrain, which needs to be considered at the foot of steep slopes. Winds are not especially strong, but intense enough to transport the snow at high altitudes. Steep areas adjacent to E/S/SW ridgelines are threatened especially. Due to low temperatures, the freshly formed drifts are brittle, easily triggered. With some experience, these danger zones can be easily recognized. In western regions, gliding avalanches over steep, grass-covered slopes are possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The major risk in the snowpack is the presence of weak layers at ground level, with nearby old melt-freeze crusts, especially above 2000m. Most snow profiles and stability tests of recent days, as well as reports from skiers and freeriders, report high proneness to triggering of these layers particularly in W/NW to N to E/NE aspects, avalanches even provoking spontaneously. On sunny slopes the problem is not as great, but above 2800m even there (where there was snow before New Year's Eve) in gullies and bowls in particular. Elsewhere fresh drifts are risky due to the recent snowfall: drifts deposited atop this powder snow are poorly bonded, easy to trigger.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: initially conditions will remain wintery. Following some light snowfall last night, a few windows of sunshine can be expected, interspersed with snow flurries during the morning. Low temperatures and biting cold winds (near ridgelines). Temperature at 2000m, -9 degrees; at 3000m, -13 degrees. Light NW winds (moderate near ridgelines).

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The old snow problem persists on shady slopes, drifts are risky at high altitude.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe