



Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 22.01.2016 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots		
	 persistent weak layer	 2000m esp. shady slopes		
	 drifting snow	 2000m increasing with altitude		
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> General Level Tirol 3 </td> <td style="text-align: center;"> Tendency tomorrow constant </td> </tr> </table>		General Level Tirol 3	Tendency tomorrow constant
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DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Caution urged on steep, shady slopes above 2000m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above about 2000m the avalanche danger is still considerable; below that altitude, generally moderate. The problem is the hazardous old snowpack which, particularly above 2000m in W/NW to N to E/NE aspects is very delicate: the weight of one single skier is enough to trigger a slab avalanche, which in turn could grow to dangerously large size. On steep, sunny slopes the old snow problem is less perilous, but above about 2300m is also a threat. This is particularly so in gullies and bowls where the old snowpack was present already before New Year's. Elsewhere, caution is necessary towards fresh drifts at high altitudes, increasingly in areas adjacent to ridgelines in NE to E to SE aspects. In the western regions where snowfall has been heaviest, and also in parts of the Northern Alps, take heed of the threats of gliding avalanches at low and intermediate altitudes. Areas beneath gliding cracks should be studiously avoided! The situation is more favourable in southern East Tirol and in eastern regions.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack in W/NW to N to E/NE aspects above 2000 m is prone to triggering. This has been corroborated by many stability tests and reports of avalanches. The major problem is found in the weak layers deeply embedded inside the snowpack, often surrounded by hardened old melt-freeze crusts. Snow profiles show similar structuring also on sunny slopes, especially at high altitudes. Snowdrifts which have been deposited on top of the loosely-packed new fallen snow present a problem only for a brief period and can usually be recognized with ease.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: outstanding conditions for winter sports, sunshine right from the start and lasting until evening (excluding a few cirrostratus clouds above summit level). Thanks to the dry air, superb visibility. Temperatures will rise slightly at all altitudes. Tonight, snowfall is expected, most of which will fall on the northern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000m, -4 degrees; at 3000m, -9 degrees. Winds will be NW to SW, blowing at moderate velocity, which increases the subjective feeling of cold. During the night tonight, winds will intensify greatly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As winds become strong to stormy at high altitude, new snowdrift accumulations will form.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe