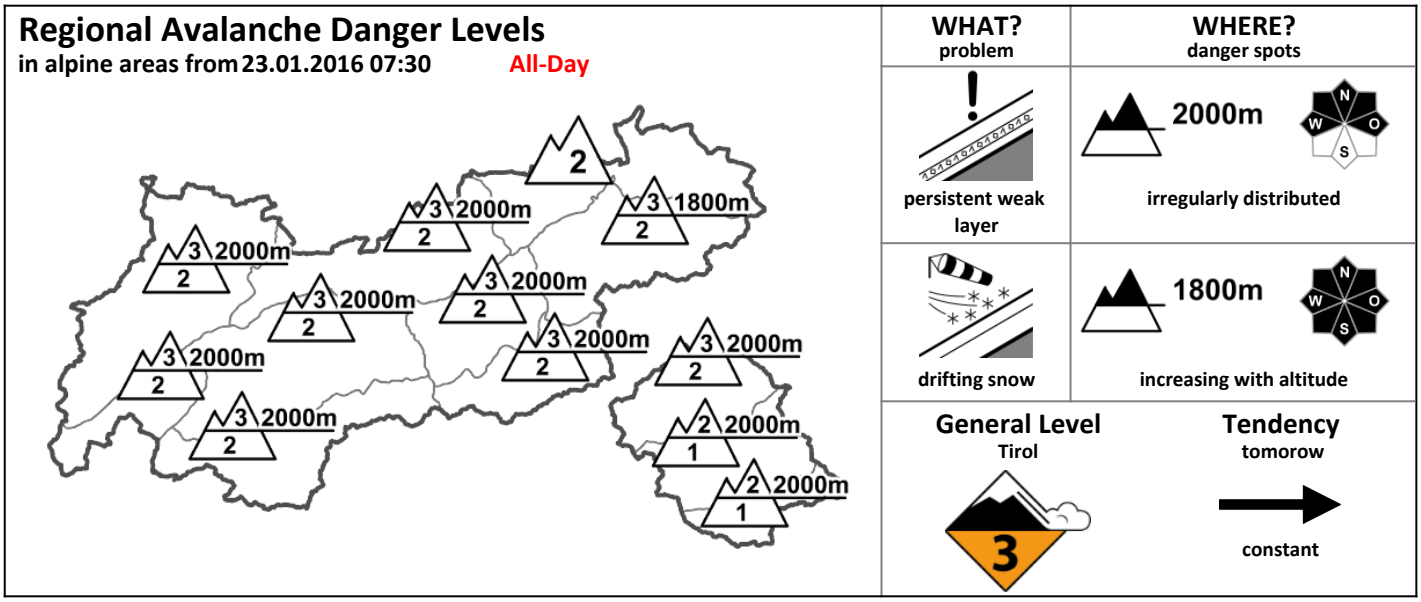
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 23.01.2016, at 07:30 Uhr



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

Widespread above 2000m, treacherous scenario: sometimes high proneness to triggering

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger above approximately 2000m is quite threatening, since avalanche prone locations are now distributed irregularly. Above approximately 2000m, a critical danger level 3 often prevails; below that altitude generally moderate danger; at low altitudes (excluding where snowfall has been heavy) the danger is low. Most avalanche prone locations are found in W/N/E aspects above about 2000m where weakened layers near ground level are highly trigger-sensitive. Remotely triggered slab avalanches and settling noises ("WHUMPF") have been frequently observed. South of the Alps the situation is better, but the frequency of danger zones tends to increase with ascending altitude. It can be assumed that the old snow presents an equally high risk above about 2300m, particularly in gullies and bowls and on smoothly layered slopes. In addition, fresh snowdrifts above the treeline demand a high degree of caution. In western regions, furthermore, gliding avalanches have been observed on steep, grass-covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack above approximately 2000m is often poorly layered, particularly in W/N/E aspects; above about 2300 m also in E/S/W aspects. The hazards lie in the weak loose layers near the ground, usually bordering on melt-freeze crusts, on south-facing slopes often lying on bare ground. Stability tests have shown continued proneness to triggering, corroborated by remote triggerings, particularly in shady terrain. It is far easier to spot the fresh snowdrifts which have been deposited atop loose powder snow, frequent at high altitudes, which for a short time will be poorly bonded to the snowpack beneath them.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge, widespread snowfall this morning, poor visibility. From the Lechtal Alps to the western sector of the Main Ridge it will be dry by midday, the cloud cover will disperse (more tenacious between Kaiser and Kitzbühel Alps). Conditions on the southern flank of the Alps will be more pleasant, heavily overcast this morning but only isolated snowfall. This afternoon, the sun will come out. Temperature at 2000m, -5 degrees; at 3000m, -11 degrees. Strong to storm-force NW winds, tapering off this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Sharp ability to assess dangers on-site is necessary above about 2000m.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**