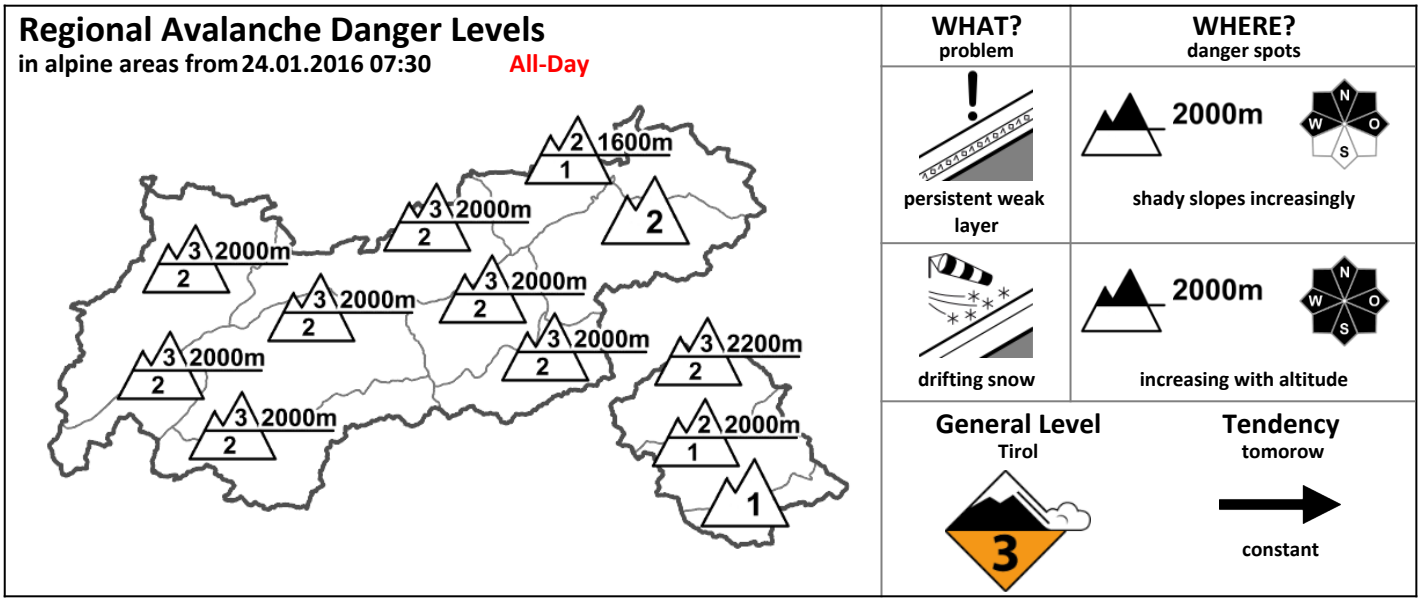
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 24.01.2016, at 07:30 Uhr



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

Old snow problem creating treacherous scenario above 2000m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger can best be described as treacherous in most of North Tirol at high altitude. The situation in the furthermost eastern regions and in East Tirol is better. Above about 2000m the danger level is considerable over widespread areas; below that altitude, moderate in general. At low altitudes (excluding western regions where snowfall has been heavy and increasingly frequent gliding avalanches can be expected) danger is low. Most avalanche prone locations are still 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. Above 2000m, in addition, caution is urged towards fresh drifts in very steep, wind-protected terrain, where proneness to triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude.

SNOW LAYERING

One has to distinguish between the old snow problem, snowdrift problem and gliding avalanche problem. The old snow problem stems from the poorly structured, loosely-packed layers near the ground which are surrounded by hardened crusts (these layers in sunny terrain often sit on bare ground). Stability tests show a high proneness to triggering widespread because the layers are inadequately bonded to one another. The snowdrift problem results from the many rounds of snowfall being transported by winds, depositing drifted masses atop the loose and light fresh fallen snow. The gliding avalanche problem lurks below 2300m in the regions where snowfall has been heaviest: the snowpack can glide across grassy terrain.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: quite acceptable weather for winter sports. The sun will often be pushed into the background by clouds, creating diffuse light conditions. Most sunshine can be expected south of the Main Alpine Ridge. Temperature at 2000m, rising from -3 to +2 degrees; at 3000m, rising from -9 to -5 degrees. Brisk NW/W winds in high alpine regions and on the northern rim of the Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Due to old snow problem, extreme caution and restraint advised above 2000m.

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