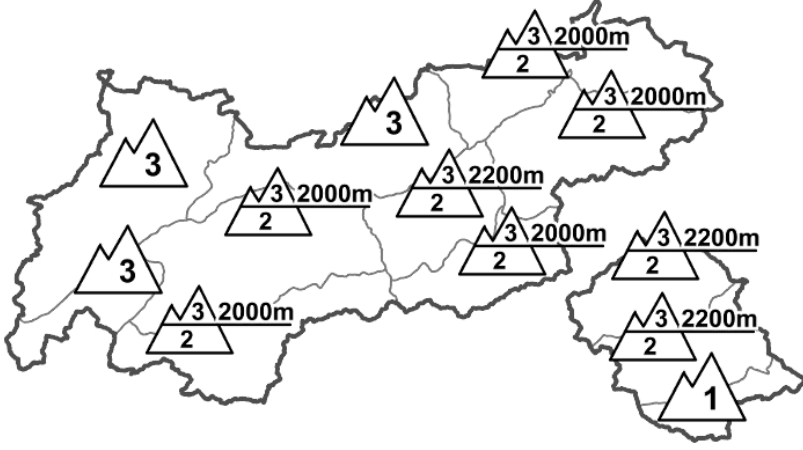












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 01.02.2016 07:30 <span style="color: red;">All-Day</span>	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 persistent weak layer	 2200m  little snow to much snow
	 drifting snow	 2400m  increasing with altitude
<b>General Level</b> Tirol 		<b>Tendency</b> tomorrow  constant

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

## Treacherous backcountry situation above the treeline

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The apex of the avalanche-danger scenario is past, the danger level above the treeline is widespread a critically-high Level 3. Spontaneous avalanches can now be expected only in isolated cases, most likely in wind-protected, very steep NW to N to E facing terrain above about 2500 m. For backcountry skiers and freeriders, unfavourable conditions prevail. Above the treeline, the old snow problem threatens; at the same time, the snowdrifts demand enormous caution. The old snow problem lurks above 2200m in W/NW to N to E/NE aspects, above about 2400m also on sunny slopes, particularly in transitions from shallow to deep snow, where medium-sized slab avalanches can trigger. With ascending altitude, the danger of freshly formed snowdrift accumulations tends to increase. Below 2000-2200m, the snowpack has been massively impacted by rain. In western regions, increasingly frequent gliding avalanches can be expected. Further east there is too little snow for massive avalanches, but loose, wet-snow avalanches can be expected in extremely steep terrain. The scenario in southern East Tirol is far better.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been heavy precipitation in Tirol, as rainfall up to about 2000m, sometimes 2200m. The precipitation was heaviest in Arlberg/Ausserfern, Silvretta/Samnaun, the Northern Alps, Kitzbühel and Zillertal Alps (40-60mm, elsewhere usually about 20 mm). In East Tirol there is a clear north-south dividing line of about 30mm in northern and 5 mm in southern regions. The mix of precipitation, warmth and strong winds at high altitudes has led to an enormous weakening of the snow cover, which brought about spontaneous avalanches. The major risk is currently the weak layer near the ground which can be found especially in northern regions above 2200m, on sunny slopes above 2400m. Successful artificial triggerings in the early morning hours today corroborate what we already know: the snowpack is extremely prone to triggering.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: wind speeds and precipitation will slacken off during the day, but winds persist in ridgeline terrain. The snowfall level is about 2000m. Temperature at 2000m, +6 degrees; at 3000m, +2 degrees. Storm force winds in high ridgeline terrain from west to northwest; below these heights winds will taper off during the day.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Incrementally improving scenario. Fresh snowdrifts accumulating at high altitude.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe