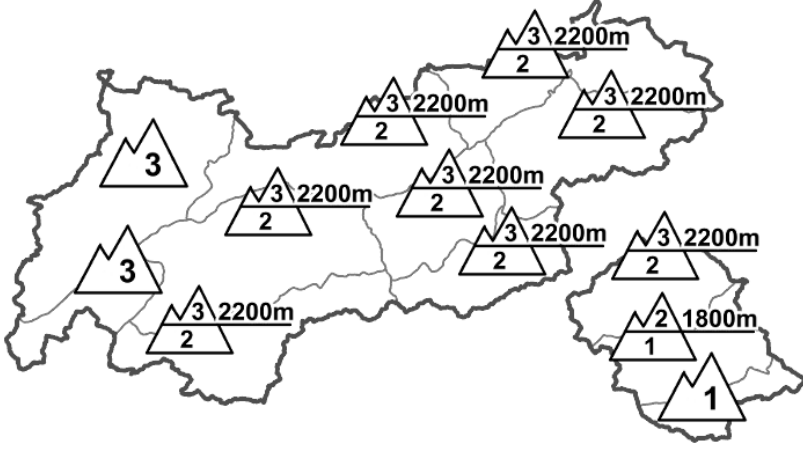










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 02.02.2016 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 persistent weak layer	 2200m more shady slopes
		 gliding snow	 2400m grass-covered slopes
General Level Tirol		Tendency tomorrow	
		 constant	

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

Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 2200m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation has improved. Above about 2200m considerable danger prevails widespread; below that altitude, mostly moderate danger; in regions below the treeline where snowfall is been far less, low danger. Caution urged towards the weak ground-level layers, increasingly found on S/NW to N to E/NE slopes above 2200m, on sunny slopes above about 2500m, particularly in transitions from shallow to deep snow, where even minimum additional loading can release an avalanche. At high altitudes, in addition, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are a threat. Below about 2400m where snowfall has been heaviest, i.e. Silvretta-Samnaun, Arlberg-Ausserfern and the western sector of the Northern Alps, avoid all areas below glide cracks in the snowpack surface, since more frequent gliding avalanches can be expected from the now thoroughly wet snowpack.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is thoroughly wet up to 2200m, but has settled and stabilised somewhat. A generally breakable melt-freeze crust has formed since yesterday afternoon above 2200 m; this will probably melt over the course of the day at low altitudes only. The major peril still lies deeply embedded inside the snowpack in the form of loose ground-level layers. Numerous avalanches have triggered down to these layers in the last few days, but there are still zones where releases could be imminent. This applies particularly to shady terrain above 2200m, to sunny slopes above about 2500m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: cloudbanks above summit level will create diffuse light conditions, making the danger spots even harder to recognize. It will initially remain very mild, the zero-degree level at about 3000m. In high altitude ridgeline terrain of the Northern Limestone Alps and in the classic foehn-exposed ranges, strong to stormy winds are blowing. Elsewhere winds are not as strong. Temperature at 2000m, +8 degrees; at 3000m, +1 degree. In ridgeline terrain of the Northern Alps and foehn-wind exposed ranges, strong to stormy W/SW winds; elsewhere moderate winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As temperatures drop, the snowpack will stabilise at low and intermediate altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe