
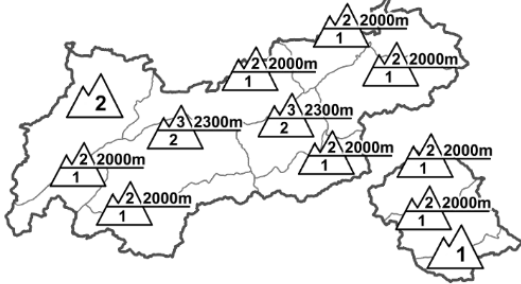
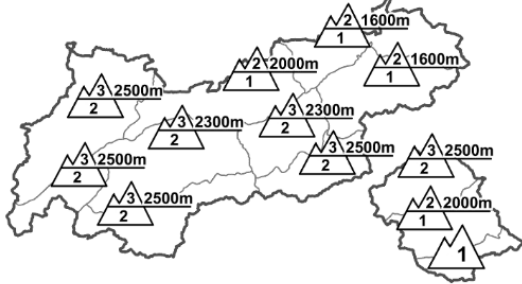











Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 03.02.2016 07:30 MORNING		Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 03.02.2016 07:30 AFTERNOON		Tendency tomorrow  constant
				
WHAT? - problem  persistent weak layer	WHERE? - danger spots  2300m  more shady slopes	WHAT? - problem  drifting snow	WHERE? - danger spots  2500m  as the day unfolds	General Level Tyrol 

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.7 - snow-poor zones in snow-rich surrounding](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Avalanche releases primarily in transitions from shallow to deep snow above 2300m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger has diminished as a result of the lower temperatures, in most regions it is moderate; below 2000m, mostly low. The scenario in the Tux Alps, northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps is less favourable: above 2300m the danger is considerable, below that altitude moderate, below the treeline low. As the day unfolds, danger will increase slightly at high altitudes as a result of snowfall; later on, snowdrift accumulations will require heightened caution in ridgeline terrain. The major peril does not stem from fresh drifts, however, but from ground-level layers of the old snowpack. As a result of later snowfall on them, these are now triggerable mostly only by large additional loading in transitions from shallow to deep snow, especially on S/NW to N to E/NE facing slopes above 2300m, on sunny slopes especially above 2500m. In the Tux Alps and the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, the likelihood of avalanches triggering is somewhat higher. In the western regions where snowfall has been heaviest, gliding avalanches are still possible on steep, grass-covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday an exploration of the overall avalanche situation was undertaken in the western regions where snowfall has been heaviest. Numerous spontaneous slab avalanches were observed in all aspects, most released on the weekend or in the early hours of Monday morning, often fracturing down to weakened layers in the old snowpack; in ridgeline terrain at high altitudes; or in the new fallen snow. Our snowpack analysis, however, showed that the drifts from the weekend are no longer trigger-sensitive; but ground-level layers are. Fractures often were possible only with large additional loading. However: where the snowpack is shallow, avalanches triggering can become large-sized. Incidentally, the snow quality tends to be poor where melt-freeze crusts are prevalent.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: ugly conditions in the mountains, on the northern rim of the Alps, instable right from the start. During the course of the morning, heavy snowfall will spread, including to the Main Alpine Ridge and the mountain ranges of South and East Tyrol. Temperatures will drop markedly: at 2000m, -6 degrees at midday; at 3000m, -12 degrees. As the day unfolds, strong to storm strength NW winds will develop.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Caution: more snowdrifts at high altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe