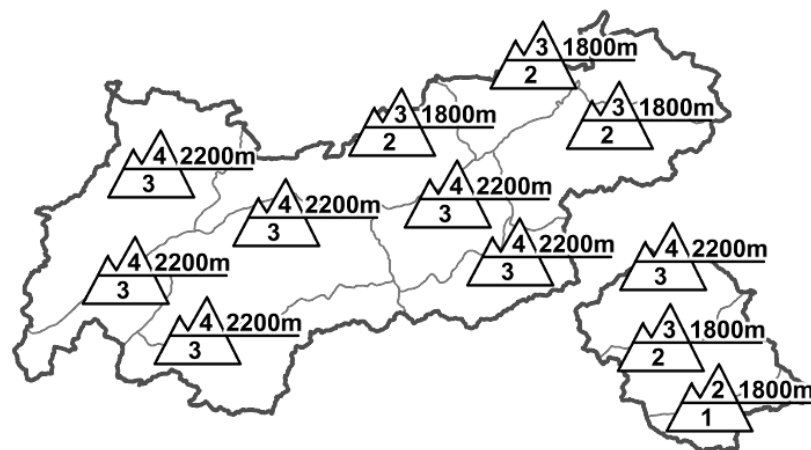












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 10.02.2016 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 1800m  fresh, trigger-sensitive	
	 persistent weak layer	 2200m  shallow snow zones	
	General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  constant	

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

New fallen snow, stormy winds have made avalanche situation critical

AVALANCHE DANGER

The fresh fallen snow and strong winds from west to northwest have caused avalanche danger to rise. It is now considerable widespread above 2200m even high in some regions (lower range of that danger level). The major peril stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations which are poorly bonded with the old snowpack surface, brittle and, thus, prone to triggering. Even the weight of one single skier can trigger a slab avalanche. Avalanches can also fracture down to more deeply embedded, weak layers inside the snowpack and thereby grow to dangerously large size. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above 1800m. In isolated cases, avalanches can trigger spontaneously and even remotely. Backcountry touring possibilities are severely limited and require much experience and restraint.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday, stormy SW winds whipped up and transported a great deal of snow. In the evening, the foehn dispersed and shifted to W/NW, temperatures dropped markedly and snowfall set in. In North Tirol and the northern regions of East Tirol there was 10-20 cm of new fallen snow, locally more (snowfall level dropped down to low lying areas). Strong westerly winds transported the fresh fallen snow massively. New snowdrift accumulations are brittle, due to the temperature, and were deposited atop a snowpack bearing heavy impact from wind: windblown or hard-compressed spots often immediately adjacent to deeply drifted zones. The old-snow problem persists: above 2200m the fundament frequently consists of a series of hardened crusts interspersed with faceted, loose layers. Thus, the proneness to triggering remains high.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: following the cold front will come a low pressure zone, bringing moist and cold air masses from the northwest. Tomorrow, Thursday, an intermediate high. On Friday, a westerly to southwesterly airstream will take over. Mountain weather today: new fallen snow and wind, at least 10 degrees colder than yesterday. On the northern flank of the Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge, the peaks will be shrouded, accompanied by snow showers. On the southern flank of the Alps, snowfall to start with, bright spells this afternoon (5-10 cm). Tonight, clouds will disperse somewhat in northern regions. Temperature at 2000m: -10 degrees; at 3000m, -17 degrees. Strong W/NW winds, at high altitudes blowing at storm-force.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Danger will diminish only incrementally, initially remain considerable.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe