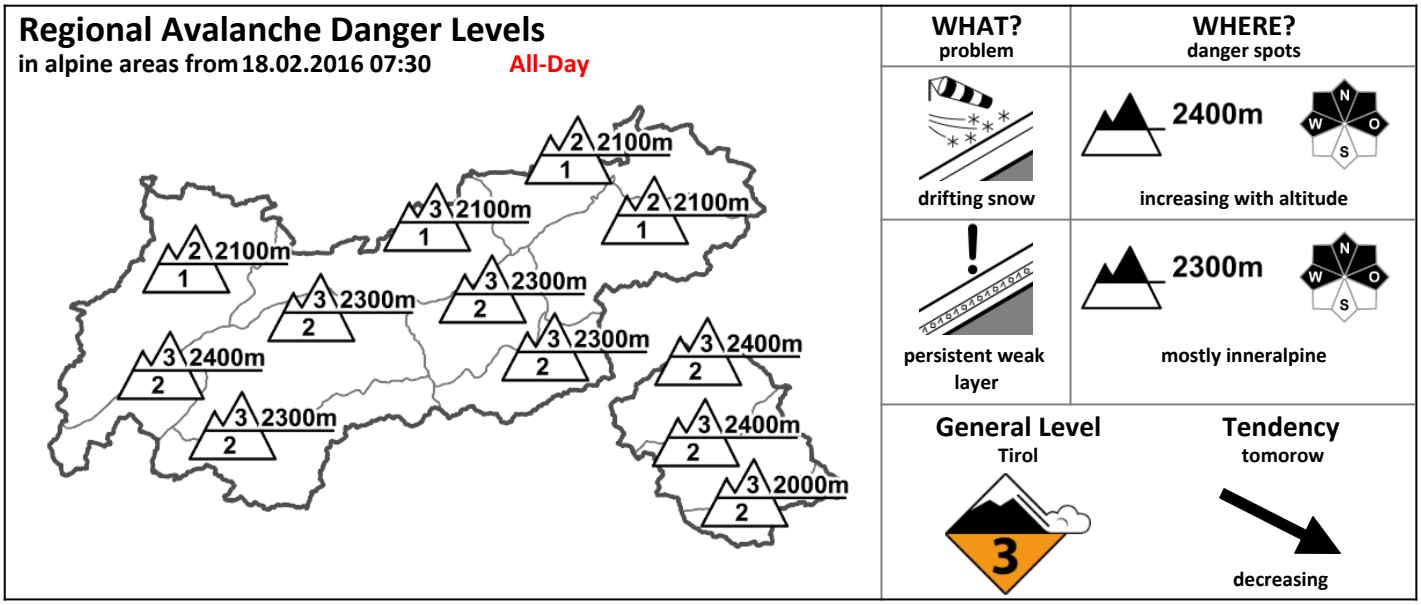
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Thursday, 18.02.2016, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.9 - graupel blanketed with snow dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer

Fresh snowdrifts trigger-sensitive at high altitude; old-snow problem on shady slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions south of the Inn Valley above 2300-2400m, considerable danger prevails; below that altitude danger levels are moderate; below about 2000m, low. The hazards stem from the snowdrifts which strong winds have formed sinced yesterday; the drifted masses are usually small, but quite prone to triggering (proneness rising with ascending altitude), found most often in ridgeline terrain, behind protruberances on W/N/E facing steep slopes. In addition, primarily in inneralpine regions (Tux, Zillertal, Ötztal and Stubai Alps above 2300m) slab avalanches can trigger the weak, more deeply embedded layers on steep shady slopes. The situation is particularly delicate in transitions from shallow to deep snow where there has been little backcountry traffic. Avalanches which are triggered can attain large size. On sunny slopes, the likelihood of avalanches triggering in the old snowpack has diminished in the cited regions, but above 2500m where the snowpack is shallow, avalanches can release from large additional loading. The situation in southern East Tirol (where snowfall has been heavy) is less favourable: apart from fresh drifts in all aspects above the treeline, the old-snow problem is still a threat above 2000m in shady terrain. In general, loose-snow avalanches can be expected in sunny, rocky terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been snowfall, heaviest in the eastern regions of Tirol. Southern East Tirol got the most: 25 cm. Over the last 2 days there has been up to 35 cm of fresh fallen snow added to the snowpack. Winds intensified yesterday along the Main Alpine Ridge, massively whipping up and transporting the new fallen snow, which was then deposited on top of loosely-packed snow mixed with graupel. Reports confirm the high trigger-sensitivity of the relatively shallow drifts. Elsewhere, one still finds weak layers near ground-level (particularly in inneralpine regions and in southern East Tirol) which are prone to triggering in some places.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: above 1500-2000m it will be a gorgeous, sunny day. This afternoon, thin cloudbanks will pass through far above summit level but not hamper the sunshine. Residual fog will be bothersome. Wintery cold temperatures: at 2000m, -4 degrees; at 3000m, -9 degrees. Light to moderate SW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowdrift hazards will decrease.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**