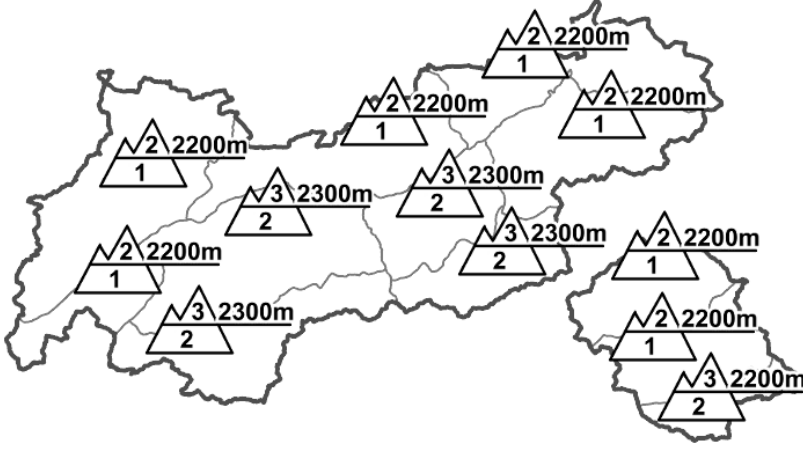










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 19.02.2016 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 persistent weak layer	 2300m mostly shady slopes	
	 drifting snow	 2200m increasing during the day	
	General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  constant	

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

Quite favourable conditions by and large. Caution on shady inneralpine slopes.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Overall, quite favourable conditions prevail. The danger above 2200m is moderate in general; below that altitude, low. The situation in the inneralpine regions and in southern East Tirol is unfavourable: above 2300 m the danger is still considerable. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep shady slopes, especially where there has been little backcountry skiing traffic. Avalanches can trigger most easily in transitions from shallow to deep snow and in general where the snowpack is shallow. Even the weight of one sole skier is sufficient to release a slab avalanche, which - and herein lies the true danger - can grow to dangerously large size, truly threatening backcountry skiers. Elsewhere, recently formed snowdrifts at high altitudes require caution, particularly in ridgeline shady terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

One already can sense spring approaching. The intensive solar radiation and mild temperatures are stabilising the snowpack. Especially in inneralpine regions (Tux, Stubai, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps) and also in southern East Tirol, snowpack analysis still shows striking weakness in some deeply embedded layers of the snow cover. They lie near to the ground, are loosely-packed and riddled with faceted crystals. Particularly on steep, shady slopes above 2300m, they are inadequately bonded with the snowpack layers lying on top of them. Loosely-packed powder snow mixed with graupel also serves as a bed surface for the recently accumulated snowdrifts.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps and on the Main Ridge, snowfall this morning, persisting for awhile, the peaks often hidden in cloud, In southern regions it is still dry, with better visibility. This afternoon the snowfall will spread to the southern flank of the Alps and to East Tirol. On the northern rim of the Alps the showers will taper off, the clouds disperse. Temperature at 2000m, -7 degrees; at 3000m, -14 degrees. Brisk to strong (gusty) N/NW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

At high altitudes, fresh, trigger-sensitive snowdrifts will form.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe