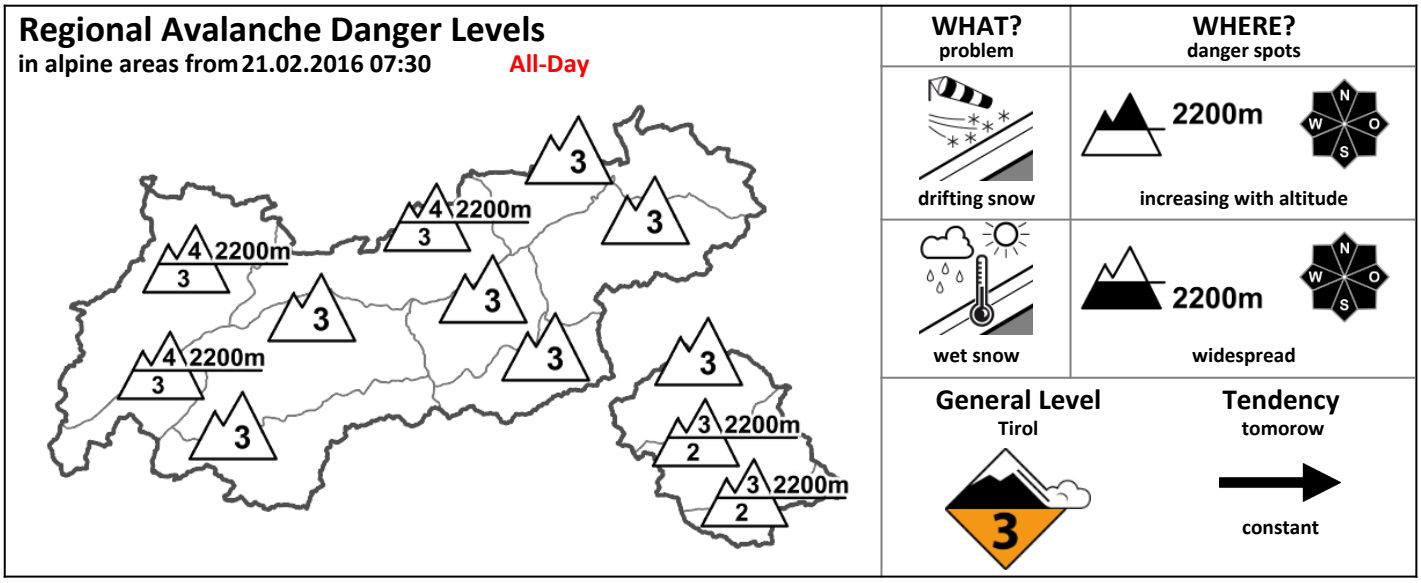
# Avalanche Bulletin
## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
## Sunday, 21.02.2016, at 07:30 Uhr




**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer dp.3 - rain

## High avalanche danger in western regions, treacherous backcountry situation far and wide

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger has increased significantly. In the western regions where snowfall has been heavy (Arlberg-Ausserfern, Silvretta-Samnaun, western sector of Northern Alps and western sectors of Stubai and Ötztal Alps) above 2200m, high avalanche danger prevails, below that altitude danger levels are considerable. During the night, several slab avalanches triggered spontaneously in these regions, presumably also in shady terrain in inneralpine regions. As a result of ongoing strong-to-stormy NW winds, huge masses of snow are being continuously transported, thus provoking further naturally triggered slab avalanches on wind-protected, very steep slopes above 2200m. In addition, the rainfall up to about 2200m, together with the rise in temperatures and solar radiation have weakened the snowpack on sun-bathed slopes. At high altitudes in extremely steep terrain, isolated spontaneous avalanches can be expected in these aspects as well. In remaining parts of North Tirol and in the East Tirolean Tauern, considerable danger also reigns backcountry, conditions are equally unfavourable. We advise inexperienced backcountry sports participants not to leave the secured ski runs today. In southern East Tirol, caution urged also towards the fresh drifts and towards very steep, shady slopes above 2200m.

### SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday afternoon there has been snowfall or rainfall, except in southern East Tirol. The snow which fell at the start of this round was subsequently influenced by the later rainfall up to about 2200m. In western, northern and northeastern regions there was between 30 and 50mm of rainfall; in the Kössen region much more. Depending on altitude, as much as 50 cm of snowfall was registered, amidst storm-force winds. This additional burden to the snowpack has already caused the old snowpack to fracture at ground-level layers (formed in early winter). Furthermore, a weakened layer exists above 2200m; the just fallen snow is also weak, and is now blanketed by drifts.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: before the precipitation finally comes to an end in the Kitzbühel Alps and Steinberge during the course of the morning, it will rain up to above 2000m, the snowpack is becoming increasingly moist. This afternoon, visibility will improve, the clouds begin to disperse. On the southern flank of the Alps between Ortler and the Dolomites / Carnic Alps, sunshine is anticipated already during the morning. The NW winds will remain an irritating backcountry factor, with mild temperatures reaching to high altitudes. Temperature at 2000m, +2 to +6 degrees; at 3000m, -1 degree. Strong to stormy NW winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Situation will improve, but daytime loss of snowpack firmness threatens.

**Patrick Nairz** **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**