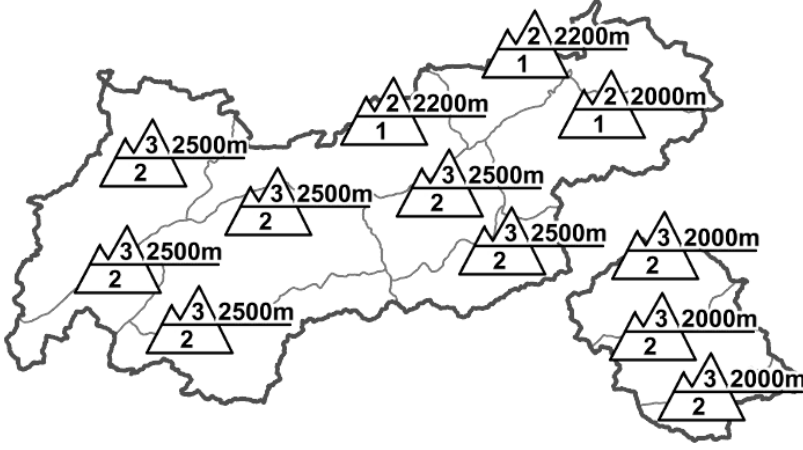










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 04.03.2016 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 2500m increasing with altitude
	 persistent weak layer	 2400m esp. inneralpine
	General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  increasing

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Beware fresh drifts at high altitude. More danger zones in East Tirol

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger continues to be a child of the wind, the massive, freshly formed snowdrifts determining the danger levels. As in recent days, the wind continues to be highly erratic, making it difficult to delineate specific danger zones. The rule of thumb is: keep alert for fresh drifts on steep slopes and avoid them. This is particularly the case at high altitude. Least favourable of all are the conditions in East Tirol, where winds have been strong and led to wide ranging drifts. The danger there above 2000m is considerable; below that altitude, moderate; below the treeline, frequently low. In the rest of Tirol, more favourable conditions reign, but even there the danger above 2500m is considerable. Avalanche prone locations are currently found primarily in very steep ridgeline terrain, where snowdrifts have accumulated. In Zillertal, Tux, Stubai and Ötztal Alps, furthermore, slab avalanches can trigger down to ground-level layers, especially between 2400 and 2700m and where the snowpack is shallow. Wherever there has been no wind impact, the powder snow is great today.

SNOW LAYERING

Fresh drifts at high altitude are not well bonded with the loosely-packed new fallen snow beneath them. Their proneness to triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude. Stability tests show melt-freeze crusts from the end of January and after 21 February to be no longer weak. Only at ground level in inneralpine regions and in southern East Tirol are they still trigger-sensitive, particularly at 2400-2700m altitude in shady terrain (above 2200m in southern East Tirol).

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: temperatures will rise at all altitudes. Until midday, good mountain conditions with little wind and some sunshine (most in eastern and southern regions) will prevail. This afternoon in the Tirolean Uplands, light conditions will become increasingly diffuse, the higher peaks disappear in fog. Southerly winds will intensify during the night, reaching strong-to-storm strength. Temperature at 2000m, -8 to -2 degrees; at 3000m, -17 to -9 degrees. Currently, mostly moderate strength westerly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As a result of foehn influence and intensifying wind, increasingly frequent trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations will threaten at high altitude.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe