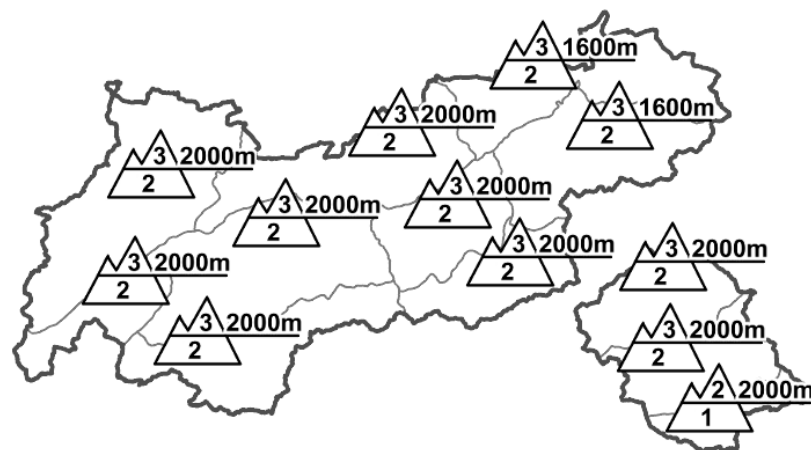



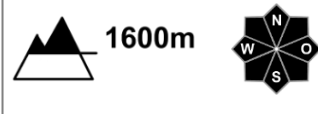






Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 05.01.2017 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 persistent weak layer	 2000m poorly snowpack structure
		 drifting snow	 1600m widespread, brittle
General Level Tirol 		Tendency tomorrow  constant	

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

Considerable danger above the treeline. High likelihood of snowpack triggering.

AVALANCHE DANGER

After the quite heavy snowfall in North Tirol, avalanche danger has increased significantly. Above the treeline in North and East Tirol, considerable danger prevails; below that altitude danger is moderate. Most treacherous currently are the shady slopes above 2000m, where transported snow masses have been deposited on top of an extremely trigger-sensitive snowpack, particularly in those areas which before this precipitation suffered relatively little wind impact. It is even possible in those places that one sole skier or freerider can trigger a slab avalanche. The old snow problem persists: on west and east facing slopes above 2400m, caution is urged. In addition, freshly accumulated snowdrifts - even more above the treeline - require great caution: they can be triggered particularly easily in areas which previously were bare of snow. Such danger zones occur especially frequently near ridgelines, gullies and bowls. In southern East Tirol, conditions are far more clement, due to less snow. But even there, snowdrifts on shady slopes require caution.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in North Tirol and northern East Tirol, there has been much snowfall: 30-60 cm in the Arlberg-Ausserfern region, Silvretta-Samnaun, Northern Alps, Kitzbühel Alps and Zillertal Alps; in the other regions of North Tirol and in the East Tirolean Tauern 20-40 cm. In southern East Tirol, only a few centimeters. The snowfall was accompanied by storm-strength winds and cold temperatures. Thus, above the treeline there are widespread snowdrift accumulations which are highly brittle and prone to triggering. Wherever there previously was a snow cover, particularly on shady slopes above 2000m, on west and east facing slopes above 2400m, the snowpack consists of a series of crusts and very loosely-packed weak layers. The likelihood of fresh snowdrifts triggering is generally quite high. A potential weakness in the new fallen snow is also the graupel which is mixed with it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: icy cold, stormy winter weather. A half-meter of fresh fallen snow since yesterday in the northern barrier regions. A few centimeters will be added today, and immediately be intensely transported by winds. Quite sunny on the southern flank of the Alps, where winds today will be blowing most strongly of all. Temperature at 2000m, -15 degrees; at 3000m, -24 degrees. Strong to storm-strength northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

We urge all skiers and freeriders: restraint!

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe