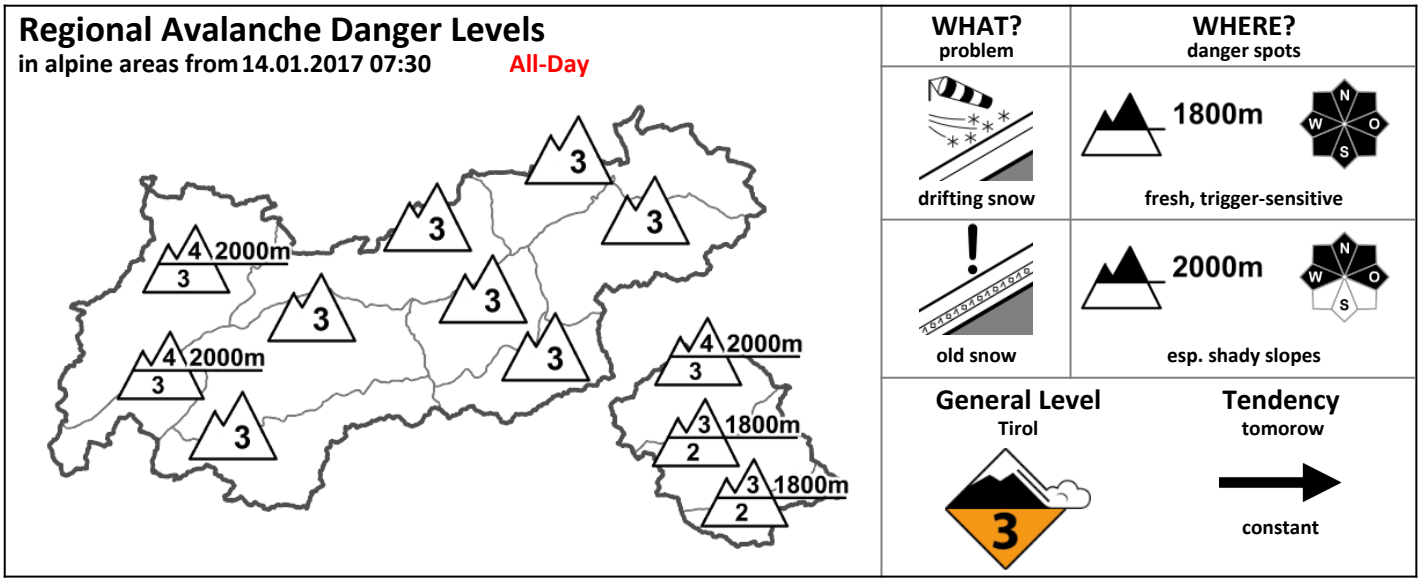
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Saturday, 14.01.2017, at 07:30 Uhr



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

High avalanche danger in some regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The combination of heavy snowfall, storm-strength high altitude winds and low temperatures have ratcheted up avalanche danger a further notch in Tirol. Widespread the danger level is considerable, but in some regions it is high; more than anywhere else in the Silvretta, Arlberg/Ausserfern and East Tirolean Tauern Ridge, where naturally triggered avalanches can be expected. Since avalanches can fracture down to deeply embedded layers of the snowpack, they can also reach larger size and even place exposed transportation routes at risk. In the remaining regions of Tirol, danger is at very least considerable, the situation in outlying terrain is treacherous. Even one sole skier or freerider can easily trigger avalnaches. Danger zones occur on steep slopes in all aspects, the peril will increase still further during the course of the day as a result of snowfall and NW winds which will be blowing at above transport strength. Caution: also ice climbers can currently be endangered by loose-snow avalanches. The inexperienced are urgently advised not to leave secured ski runs.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10-20cm of new fallen snow registered over widespread areas in Tirol. In the Silvretta, Arlberg/Ausserfern and the East Tirolean Tauern as much as 30-40cm. The snowfall was accompanied by strong-to-stormy W/NW winds so that the new fallen snow was intensely transported and formed new snowdrift accumulations, which were deposited on top of loosely-packed old snow and poorly bonded with it. Thus, avalanches can easily be triggered. In addition, the unfavourable layering of the old snowpack also demands caution: particularly on shady slopes above 2000m there is near the ground a series of thin, hardened crusts which are often encircled with loose, faceted-crystal snow. These layers are potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a huge mass of arctic air stretches clear across the Alps and the Mediterranean down to northern Africa. From the north, moist and cold air masses will be pushed over the Alps today and tomorrow. In North Tirol, snowfall conditions are setting in. Next week, a high pressure front will gradually build up. Mountain weather today: As a result of the northerly air current, wet and cold weather conditions will take hold. In the mountains of the Arlberg and Ausserfern, well more than 50 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected between Friday and Saturday. In the remaining regions, 20-40 cm. In the Southern Alps it will remain dry as a result of northerly winds, skies will be overcast. Temperature at 2000m, -12 degrees; at 3000m, -20 degrees. Strong NW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As snowfall adds up and strong winds persist, high avalanche danger from place to place

Rudi Mair **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**