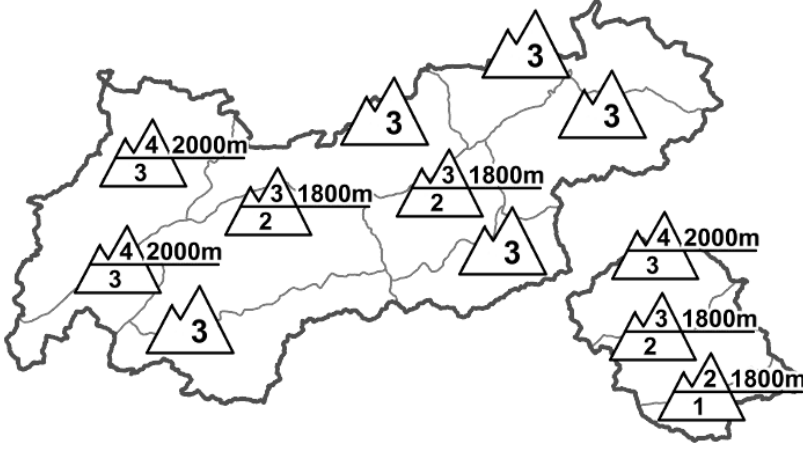












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 15.01.2017 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 1800m  fresh, trigger-sensitive
	 old snow	 2000m  esp. shady slopes
	General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  constant

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

High avalanche danger above 2000m in some regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol's backcountry touring regions remains treacherous: the danger level is considerable widespread, in the areas of heaviest recent precipitation also high. That includes the Silvretta, Arlberg/Ausserfern and regions along the Northern Alps, where avalanches can also trigger spontaneously and sweep away the entire snowpack down to layers at ground level. Thus, avalanches are capable of reaching medium size and in isolated cases endangering exposed transportation routes. The major peril for skiers and freeriders lies in the fresh and older snowdrift accumulations. Due to low temperatures, they are brittle and can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In isolated cases, mountaineers can also be endangered by loose-snow avalanches. Danger zones occur on steep slopes in all aspects. Both frequency and spread of the avalanche prone locations increase with ascending altitude. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain currently make experience in assessing the dangers on-site imperative. Backcountry tours are limited.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been an additional 5-15 cm of fresh fallen snow registered in North Tirol. In the regions of Silvretta, Arlberg/Ausserfern and along the Northern Alps there was 20-40cm of new fallen snow registered, from place to place even more. Thus, since Friday between a half and three-quarters of a meter of snow has fallen. The NW high altitudes winds have been above transport velocity, leading to new snowdrift accumulations. Both freshly formed and older snowdrifts are generally quite poorly bonded with the snowpack surface, making them quite prone to triggering. In addition, the poor layering of the snowpack requires caution: particularly on shady slopes above 2000m, the fundament is frequently riddled with hardened crusts interspersed with layers of faceted snow crystals, unbonded, which can serve as bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the Alps lie wedged between a high over western Europe and a low over the Baltic Sea, in a northerly air current being impacted by incoming arctic air masses. The air is moderately humid; thus, there will be further snow showers until tomorrow in the northern barrier zones. After Monday, the high pressure front will extend its influence. Mountain weather today: an interim without precipitation except for a few snow showers in the Northern Alps between Arlberg and Kaiser. Very cold. The peaks are partially shrouded in fog, sunny phases possible in the Inn Valley and towards the Main Alpine Ridge, less likely along the Bavarian border. Lots of sunshine and cold on the Main Alpine Ridge and south of it. On Sunday night in the Northern Alps, light snow showers. Temperature at 2000m: -14 degrees; at 3000m, -21 degrees. Moderate N/NW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The snowfall/storm period will end, but avalanche danger recede only gradually.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe