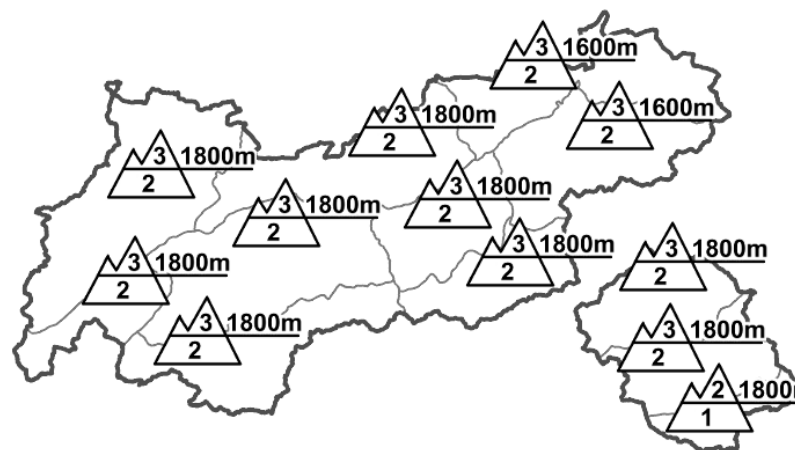










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 16.01.2017 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 drifting snow	 1800m esp. above treeline
		 old snow	 1900m esp. shady slopes
General Level Tirol 		Tendency tomorrow  constant	

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

Snowdrifts plus old snow problem: Considerable avalanche danger widespread above treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger varies according to altitude. Above the treeline, danger is considerable widespread, below that altitude generally moderate. Two problems threaten: on the one hand, the snowdrifts, on the other, the old snow. The old snow problem occurs on shady slopes above 1900m, on west and east facing slopes above 2300m, on south facing slopes above 2600m. Inside the old snowpack are extremely trigger-sensitive interim layers which can trigger even by minimum additional loading. In heavily wind-impacted terrain, i.e. in very steep transition areas from shallow to deep snow, the danger is great. The snowdrift problem occurs in all aspects on steep, freshly wind-loaded slopes above the treeline and in gullies and bowls. The wind has slackened off significantly, but is still blowing above transport strength. The cold temperatures keep the drifts brittle, making them easy to trigger. In the regions of the north where snowfall has been heaviest, small-sized gliding avalanches are possible. In southern East Tirol, the dangers are lower due to lack of snow.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover has settled somewhat but above the treeline (at latest above 1900m) it is still quite prone to triggering. Potential bed surfaces for avalanches are the loose, cold new fallen snow which has now been blanketed by newly formed drifts. There are also loosely-packed interim layers in the old snowpack which lie between crusts. Stability tests and some avalanches triggered by skiers and freeriders over the weekend have confirmed just how high the likelihood of triggering really is.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: very cold mountain weather. In the Northern Alps, heavily overcast to foggy, intermittent light snow showers. On the Main Alpine Ridge west of the Brenner range, extensive sunny intervals are expected, thus providing better visibility. On the southern flank of the Alps lots of sunshine, but bitter-cold winds. This afternoon in the Carnic Alps, clouds will move in from Carinthia. Temperature at 2000m: -15 degrees; at 3000m, -23 degrees. Moderate N/NE winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Unchanged situation: snowdrift problem; old snow problem.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe