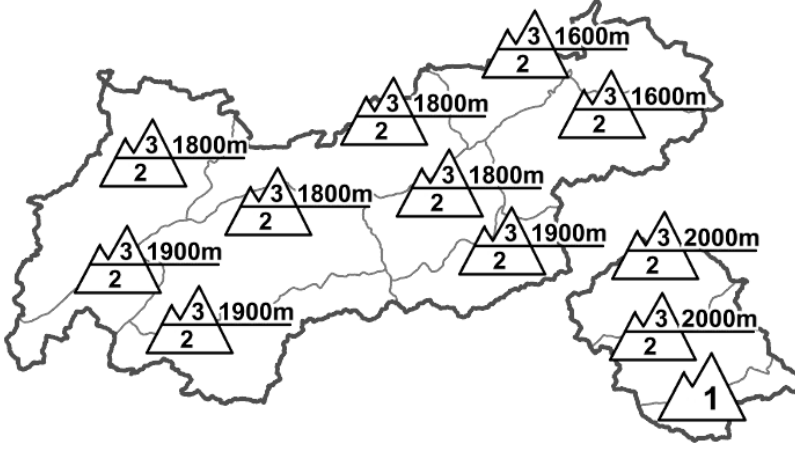












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 17.01.2017 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 drifting snow	 1800m  brittle due to cold
		 old snow	 1900m  esp. shady slopes
		General Level Tirol  3	Tendency tomorrow  constant

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

Considerable avalanche danger widespread above treeline: snowdrift and old-snow problem

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains as it was: above the treeline considerable danger prevails, below the treeline moderate danger. The situation in southern East Tirol where there is far less snow is more favourable. Danger zones occur where there are fresh snowdrift accumulations, but also where the old snowpack is prone to triggering. Fresh drifts occur primarily above the treeline near ridgelines on E/S/W slopes, they are brittle due to the low temperatures, easily triggered even by one sole person. The old snow problem is more difficult to spot; it begins on shady slopes above 1900m, above 2300m on west and east facing slopes, above 2600m on south facing slopes. A slab can be triggered even by minimum additional loading there, then sweep the snowpack down to ground level layers with it, thus growing to large-sized avalanches. We advise enormous restraint on steep, shady slopes where the problem threatens most.

SNOW LAYERING

The automated weather stations make clear that the wind has shifted to N/NE and is well above transport strength in many places. Thus, new, brittle and thus, trigger-sensitive snowdrifts will accumulate. Potential weak layer: loose, drifted-over powder snow. Other potential weak points occur inside the old snowpack, beginning on shady slopes above 1900m, above 2300m in the other aspects. The problem is the loose, faceted-crystal snow and depth hoar which lies wedged between several thin or less-thin crusts. Stability tests have shown a high proneness to triggering. The zone around 1900m also evidences blanketed-over surface hoar.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: ice cold, brisk winds making it feel even colder, although temperatures are expected to rise during the day. Between Ötztal Alps and Ortler Massif, sunny mountain weather; in the other ranges, still fogbanks. East of the Karwendel as far as the Kitzbühel Alps and in the Tux Alps, light snowfall repeatedly over the day, bringing no large amounts. Tuesday night, clear and cold. Temperature at 2000m, -16 degrees; at 3000m, -19 degrees. Moderate NE winds, brisker in the Northern Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The snowdrift and old-snow problems will persist

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe