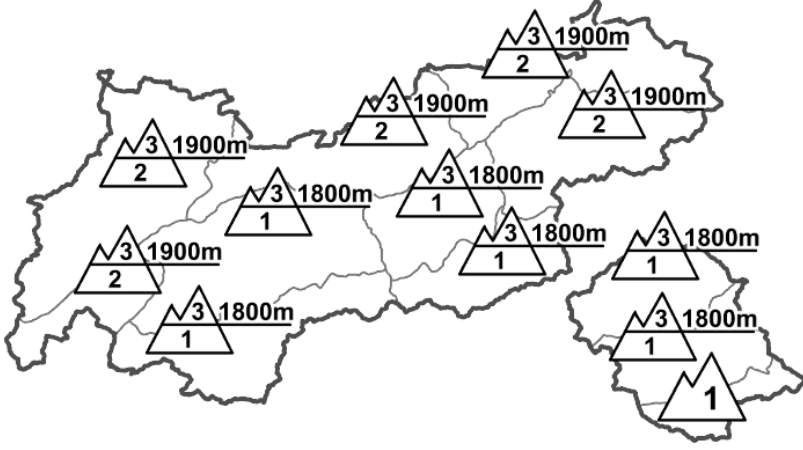












Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 19.01.2017 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 old snow	 1900m  shady slopes above 1900m
	 drifting snow	 2000m  esp. ridgeline terrain
	General Level Tirol  3	Tendency tomorrow  constant

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

Considerable danger widespread above treeline, often low danger below 1800m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains dependent on altitude. Above the treeline, at latest above 1900m, considerable danger prevails; below that altitude the danger is frequently moderate, sometimes low. The major peril stems from the old-snow problem which is hard to evaluate even for experts. Avalanche prone locations occur in shady terrain above 1900m, above 2300m on east and west facing slopes, above 2600m on south-facing slopes. Slab avalanches can be triggered in spots where there is little snow, even in flat terrain, and can grow to dangerously large size. In high alpine regions (above 3000m) the likelihood of avalanches triggering in ground-level layers of the snow cover has diminished since thick, hardened wind crusts now blanket weak layers. On the other hand, the snowdrift problem tends to intensify with ascending altitude, particularly in very steep ridgeline terrain at high altitude. On steep, grass-covered slopes, furthermore, isolated gliding avalanches threaten.

SNOW LAYERING

The main problem lies deeply embedded inside the snowpack: ground-level layers which are easily triggered. The problem on shady slopes occurs above 1900m. This has been where many of the recently reported avalanches have unleashed. Caution: avalanches can also be triggered in flat terrain. The snowdrift accumulations which formed over the last few days from cold NE winds are now triggerable only at high altitudes. In terrain on the southern flank of the Alps, the solar radiation yesterday had positive effects on the snowpack up to 2300m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: radiant, brilliant sunshine, superb visibility, milder temperatures. At 2000m, -5 degrees; at 3000m, -11 degrees. Light to moderate easterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The old-snow problem has again become the major threat. It will persist.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe