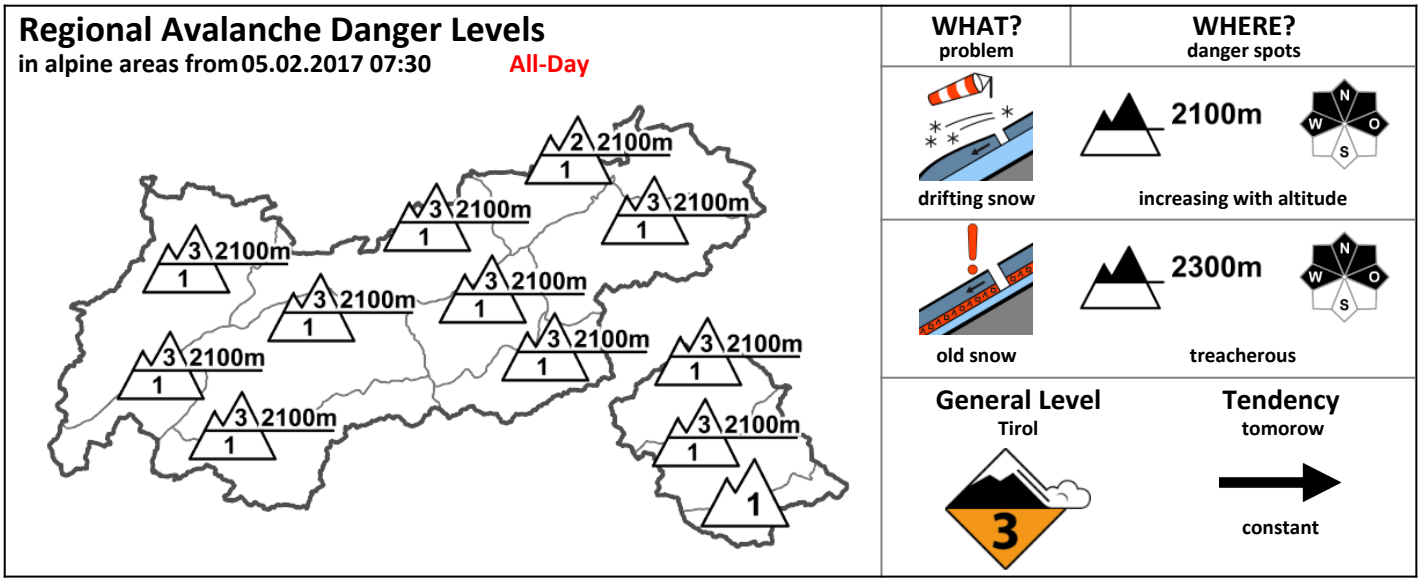
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Sunday, 05.02.2017, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.5 - snowfall after a long period of cold dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer

Beware recently formed snowdrifts above 2100m: very trigger-sensitive

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is dependent on altitude, above 2100 m it increases suddenly to considerable over widespread areas. Below 2100m danger is low. Most treacherous are still the recently wind-loaded slopes above 2100m, particularly shady slopes. Settling noises (whumpf!) and glide cracks which are being ongoingly reported by skiers are indicators of imminent danger. Above 2300m, awareness of the other problem is also imperative: the weak layers near the ground, also on shady slopes more than anywhere else, but also on steep east and west-facing slopes. Avalanches can be triggered there even by minimum additional loading where the snow is shallow. At low and intermediate altitudes, gliding avalanche and slid problem still persists.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there was only minimal new fallen snow registered, generally less than 5cm. However, winds were strong, continually transporting the fresh fallen snow, deposited it especially on shady slopes atop a layer of loose, faceted crystals. Snow analysis shows the inadequacy of the bonding of this weak layer to the drifts. Other weak layers for slab avalanches are found near the ground above 2300m, especially on W-N-E slopes. In general, the snowpack is highly irregular. On the surface up to intermediate altitudes there is a melt-freeze crust, above that altitude wind-impacted crusts.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather: Sunday will begin with friendly, even bright, weather conditions. A small foehn front will make itself felt on the northern flank of the Alps which will hold back the precipitation beyond the Main Alpine Ridge until sundown. But this afternoon, heavy cloud will move in, make light conditions diffuse. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps, cloud will make skies overcast by midday, light snowfall is expected for this afternoon. At 2000m: -5 to -3 degrees; at 3000m: -10 to -8 degrees. Winds will be southwesterly, initially at moderate strength, later at strong velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Slight increase in avalanche danger due to new fallen snow, especially in eastern regions

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**