
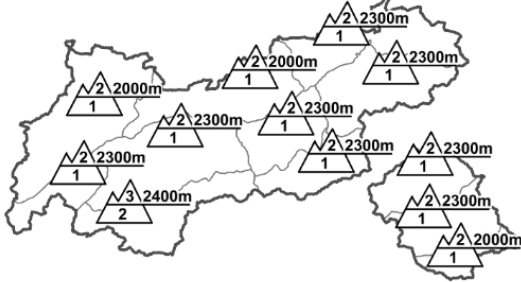
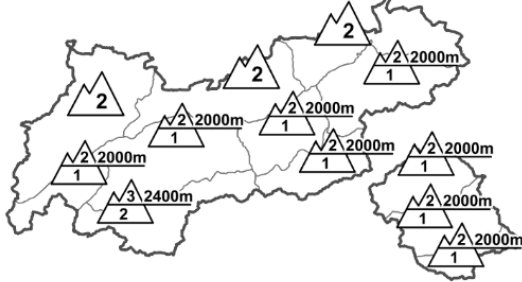









<b>Regional Avalanche Danger Levels</b> in alpine areas from 17.02.2017 07:30 <span style="color: red;">MORNING</span>		<b>Regional Avalanche Danger Levels</b> in alpine areas from 17.02.2017 07:30 <span style="color: red;">AFTERNOON</span>		<b>Tendency tomorrow</b>  constant
				
<b>WHAT? - problem</b>  old snow	<b>WHERE? - danger spots</b>  2400m diffuse	<b>WHAT? - problem</b>  drifting snow	<b>WHERE? - danger spots</b>  1800m increasing during the day	<b>General Level Tirol</b> 

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

### Small drifts on shady slopes. Old-snow problem above 2400m

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

During the morning below 2300m avalanche danger is low, above that altitude moderate, in the southern Ötztal Alps above 2400m danger is considerable. Starting this afternoon, the danger, particularly in northern regions, will rise to moderate in general as a result of the cold front. From new fallen snow plus wind, new, small-sized snowdrifts will be brought about on shady, until now unused terrain; these will be easy to trigger. Elsewhere, the old-snow problem continues to plague us. Avalanche prone locations focus on shady, very steep slopes above 2400m. Isolated triggerings possible also on east and west facing slopes above 2400m. Where the snow is shallow, avalanches (generally triggerable by large additional loading) can grow to dangerously large size. The southern Ötztal Alps have the least favourable conditions of all, with the most avalanche prone locations.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is generally stable, loose and low in tensions. On southern slopes which are very steep above 2400m the melt-freeze crust is capable of bearing loads. Elsewhere, powder dominates or melt-freeze crusts and wind crusts. Wherever the snowpack is powdery, it bonds poorly with the fresh drifts. But the snowdrift problem is visible. What is not is the old-snow problem above 2400m (above 2000m in East Tirol). Snowpack analysis has shown that most places require large additional loading to trigger, the fracture propagation is very large in some cases. In isolated cases, remote triggerings are possible from flat terrain.

#### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: a cold front will worsen conditions in Tirol. In the Northern Alps, snowfall from early morning hours (10-20cm), the snowfall will then spread throughout North Tirol and extend over the Main Alpine Ridge to southern regions. In the Dolomites, only a few snowflakes. This afternoon cloud will disperse and the precipitation be over, but most of the peaks will remain hidden in cloud. At 2000m: -5 degrees, at 3000m: -12 degrees. Brisk to strong NW winds.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Small, fresh snowdrifts will be prone to triggering for a short period.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe