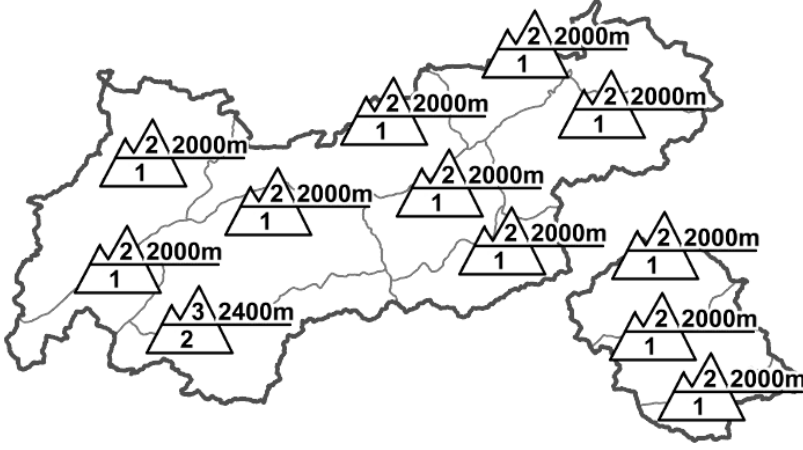










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 19.02.2017 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 drifting snow	 2000m small-sized
		 old snow	 2400m diffuse
		General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  constant

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

Fresh snowdrifts at high altitude PLUS old-snow problem above 2400m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above 2000m the avalanche danger in Tirol is predominantly moderate, below 2000m low. Only in the southern Ötztal Alps is the danger considerable above 2400m. Two problems confront backcountry skiers: first, the freshly formed snowdrifts; second, the persistent old-snow problem. The drifts come from transported new fallen snow, with varying results because winds were so variable; heed indications of wind and circumvent the drifts. Danger zones occur mostly in shady, very steep, untracked terrain and on very steep, sunny slopes at high altitude near ridgelines. The old-snow problem is mostly above 2400m and on shady slopes. Isolated danger zones on east and west facing slopes occur mostly above 2500m, particularly in the southern Ötztal Alps. Weak layers lie deeply embedded inside the snowpack and can trigger by large additional loading, sometimes even by minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of one skier. Untracked terrain should be evaluated more critically. In addition, this afternoon in sunny, rocky terrain, isolated generally harmless loose-snow avalanches can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

Possible weak layers for slab avalanches can be found in the loosely-packed old snowpack surface in untracked shady terrain, on the one hand; on the other, in the loosely-packed new fallen snow in the other aspects in high alpine zones. Additional weak layers for slab avalanchs occur at halfway-depth of the snowpack: loose, faceted-crystal snow above 2400m. Large additional loading is generally necessary to trigger this layer, but fracture propagation remains a threat in case it gets triggered, thus leading to far larger avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: high-pressure front conditions will bring very sunny weather to Tirol today, nearly cloudless skies, zero-degree level below 2000m. At 2000m: -4 to -2 degrees. At 3000m: -10 to -7 degrees. Light to moderate northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The situation will gradually improve.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe