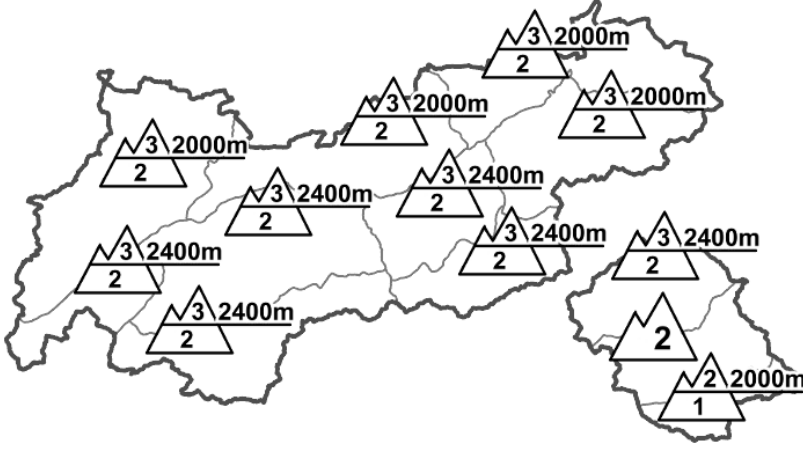










Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 23.02.2017 07:30 All-Day	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 2400m fresh, trigger-sensitive
	 wet snow	 2000m wet snowpack
	General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  constant

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.10 - springtime szenario](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

Beware fresh, trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions has increased somewhat: above 2400m it is considerable widespread. The major peril stems from fresh snowdrift accumulations. They are generally small-sized but prone to triggering. They can often be triggered by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep, shady slopes above 2400m as well as in general in ridgeline terrain in all aspects. Below 2000m the snowpack is thoroughly wet, thus superficial loose-snow avalanches can trigger naturally, sometimes even slab avalanches.

SNOW LAYERING

As a result of strong to storm-strength westerly winds at high altitudes, the latest batch of new fallen snow was intensely transported. The snowdrifts which accumulated are poorly bonded with the snowpack surface beneath them and thus, prone to triggering. In the inneralpine backcountry touring regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge the old-snow problem persists: inside the snowpack are faceted-crystals layers of loose snow. If an avalanche fractures to these layers, it can grow to dangerously large size. Below 2000m the snowpack has become thoroughly wet due to rainfall and mild temperatures. Thus, it has lost most of its firmness.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a powerful SW air current is bringing very mild air masses to Tirol today. On Thursday night, a cold front will reach us. Mountain weather today: mostly sunny and mild in the mountains. A few clouds above summit level, possibly thickening on the northern flank of the Alps this afternoon. At 2000m: +6 degrees. At 3000m: -2 degrees. Strong to storm-strength W/SW winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New fallen snow and stormy winds: increase in avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe