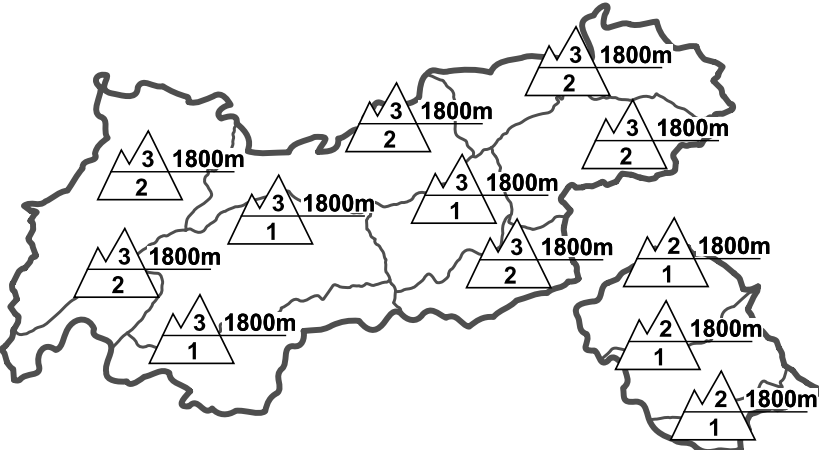

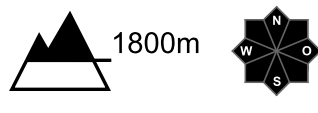
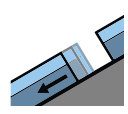







Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 09.12.2017 07:30 All-Day		WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
		 drifting snow	 1800m increasing with altitude
		 gliding snow	 2500m on steep, grassy slopes
		General Level Tirol 	Tendency tomorrow  increasing

DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.2 - gliding snow](#)

Beware fresh snowdrifts, sometimes prone to triggering!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger is increasing somewhat because of fresh snow and low temperatures: above the treeline in North Tirol, to considerable; in other regions, to moderate; below the treeline in some places, still low. Least favourable conditions persist in the Kitzbühel Alps, in parts of the Northern Alps and in the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions where recent snowfall has been heaviest. The major danger stems from fresh and, to some extent, recently formed snowdrift accumulations. These can be most easily triggered on shady, very steep slopes, as well as in areas adjacent to ridgelines. Quite frequently, the weight of one sole skier is sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. The frequency of danger zones tends to increase with ascending altitude. Excluding the northern regions of Tirol, they are generally small-sized drifts which can be easily recognized (and circumvented) by experienced tourers. In addition, in the regions where snowfall has been heaviest, gliding avalanches are still a risk on steep, grass-covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The wind is the architect of avalanches, as they say. At high altitude, winds have again done thorough work. The snowdrifts which have accumulated can be triggered in one of three weak layers: no.1 is the surface hoar, especially in the Kitzbühel Alps and the ranges along the Bavarian border. No. 2 is the faceted snow crystals, found at 2000 - 2300 m and above 2800 m beneath the crusts, most of the time requiring large additional loading. No. 3 is the fresh powder snow which has been blanketed by even newer snowfall.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Arctic cold air will create a frosty day in the mountains, temperatures dropping to two-digit figures below zero. In early morning it will still be snowing. Particularly in the NW barrier zones we can expect another few centimeters of fresh snow. Later in the morning, the showers will taper off and the sun come through at bit. In the afternoon, it will turn rather sunny in East Tirol and on the southern flank of the Alps, accompanied by cold northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m, -13 degrees; at 3000 m, -21 degrees. Brisk NW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche situation will worsen through the storm-strength winds.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe