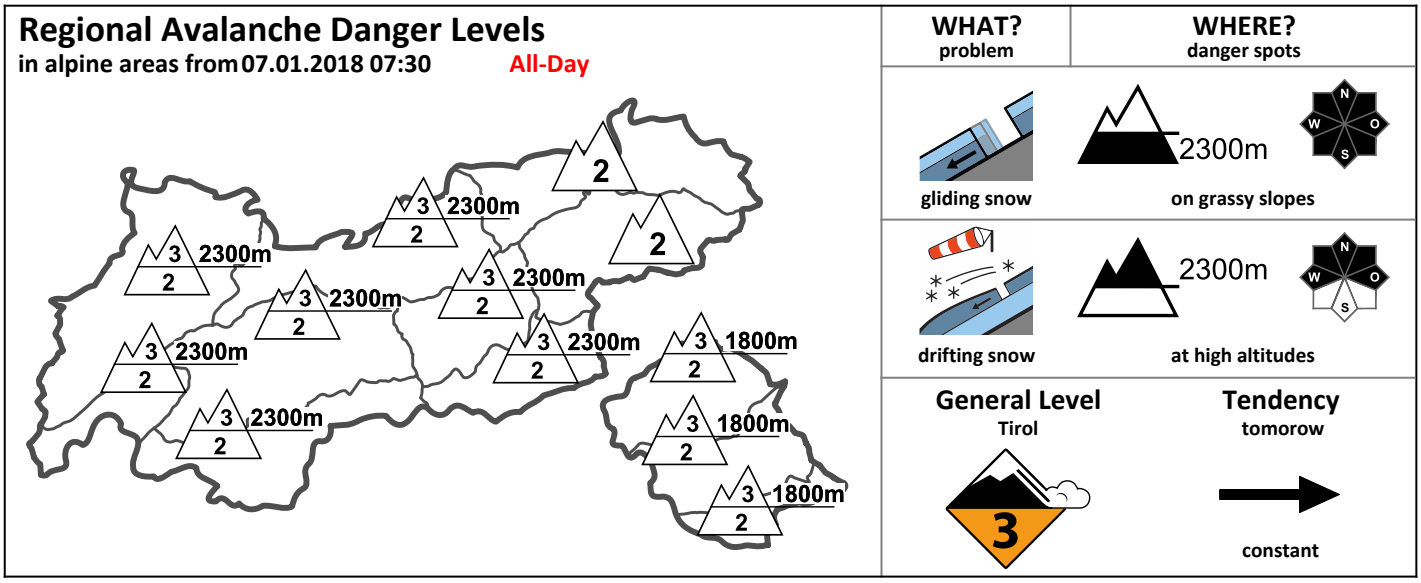
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 07.01.2018, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.2 - gliding snow dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer

Beware fresh snowdrifts, gliding snow on grassy slopes, weak layers in East Tirol

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol is dependent on altitude. In North Tirol the danger above 2300 m is considerable, below that altitude moderate. In East Tirol, considerable danger prevails above 1800 m, moderate danger below that altitude. Three problems threaten: gliding snow, snowdrifts and old snow. The gliding snow problem is observable on steep, grass-covered slopes in frequent avalanches. In the western regions where snowfall has been heaviest, gliding avalanches can grow to large size. The snowdrift problem arises from the strong southerly wind: beginning at about 2300 m, the freshly transported snow can be triggered. The proneness to triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude. In East Tirol, furthermore, the old snow problem requires caution. This applies to shady terrain above 1800 m, to sunny terrain above 2200 m. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, particularly in transition zones from shallow to deep snow. In North Tirol, this problem is less pronounced, applies mostly to altitudes above 2200 m.

SNOW LAYERING

The unseasonably warm temperatures, together with solar radiation, yesterday created nearly springlike conditions at low and intermediate altitudes. Below 2100 m in North Tirol, firn snow appeared in some places. More often, the snow quality below 2300 m is poor: breakable crusts! Weak layers inside the old snow, composed of faceted snow crystals, are more easily triggered in East Tirol than in North Tirol. In East Tirol, settling noises still are indicating a higher proneness to triggering. Strong southerly foehn wind is transporting snow at high altitudes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Southerly foehn situation with lots of clouds in the mountains of the Main Alpine Ridge in South and East Tirol. West of the Brenner, light snowfall can be expected this afternoon, elsewhere it will remain dry. Further north, only light cloud, creating diffuse light conditions. Very mild at high altitude: at 2000 m: 2 degrees; at 3000 m: -2 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds at high altitude, reaching storm strength in the foehn-exposed regions, later shifting to southerly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snow transport by foehn wind continues in high alpine regions.

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