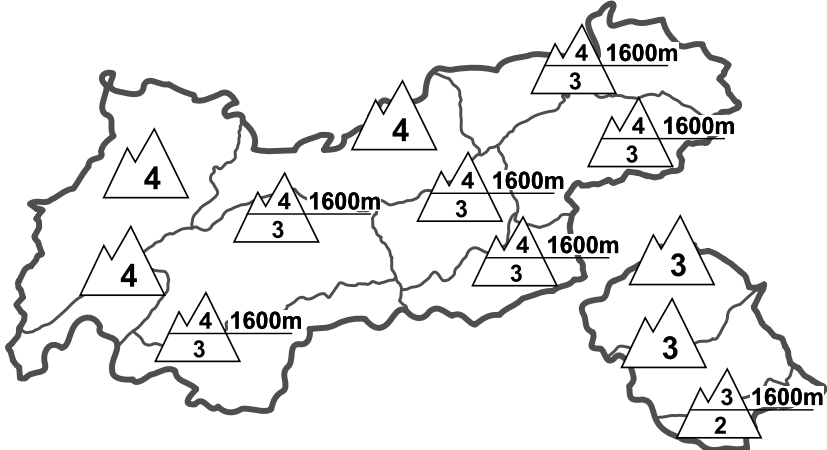

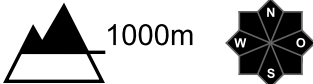
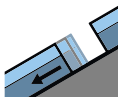







Regional Avalanche Danger Levels in alpine areas from 18.01.2018 07:30 <span style="color: red;">All-Day</span>	WHAT? problem	WHERE? danger spots
	 drifting snow	 1000m very trigger-sensitive!
	 gliding snow	 2200m on grassy slopes
	<b>General Level</b> Tirol 	<b>Tendency</b> tomorrow  decreasing

**DANGER PATTERNS (DP):** [dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow](#) [dp.6 - loose snow and wind](#) [dp.9 - graupel blanketed with snow](#)

## High avalanche danger widespread. Treacherous backcountry situation.

### AVALANCHE DANGER

In western and northern regions of North Tirol, high danger prevails over widespread areas. In the other regions of Tirol, the danger above 1600 m is high; below 1600 m considerable. The combination of further snowfall (in western regions) and persistent storm-strength winds and rising temperatures is raising danger levels for naturally triggered avalanches as the day unfolds. We expect especially in western regions mostly medium-sized, in isolated cases large-sized avalanches. This is because there has been snowfall for only 2 days, and only the transported snow can release as a slab avalanche. A fracture down to more deeply embedded layers is possible only in isolated cases on steep slopes which have not yet discharged, particularly in sunny terrain above 2500 m. Extremely unfavourable conditions prevail for backcountry tours. On shady slopes, blanketed surface hoar raises the proneness to triggering significantly. Increasingly often on sunny slopes, there are weak layers in the fresh snow; thus, the freshly formed snowdrifts should be studiously avoided in steep terrain. The situation is better only in southern East Tirol. Fresh drifts are smaller there, nevertheless they are still easily triggered.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been snowfall in North Tirol and in northern East Tirol (an additional 20-40 cm). Thus, overall there has been 50 cm of fresh snow registered in most places, in western and northwestern regions up to 100 cm. In southern East Tirol, there was only a small amount. Storm-strength winds are raging everywhere, even extending to low lying areas, transporting the fresh snow widespread. Reports of settling noises, fissures in the surface and also naturally triggered avalanches confirm the trigger-sensitivity of the snowpack. This is partly due to the blanketed surface hoar (esp. on W/N/E facing slopes) and partly due to the graupel which was mixed into the snowfall. The old snowpack is generally stable. Only in steep sunny terrain above 2500 m can by large additional loading a fracture break through to the more deeply embedded layer of faceted crystals, stimulated, for example, by a superficial avalanche.

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

Ongoing storm winds in the mountains. Precipitation will settle these conditions somewhat. Skies are mostly overcast, but far less snowfall is anticipated today. This afternoon in the eastern mountain ranges it might even be dry. Temperatures are rising, the snowfall level will ascend to over 1000 m in the course of the day. At 2000 m: -9 to -2 degrees. At 3000 m: -15 to -7 degrees. Strong to stormy W/NW winds at high altitude.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Naturally triggered avalanche danger will recede. Still treacherous in outlying terrain.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe