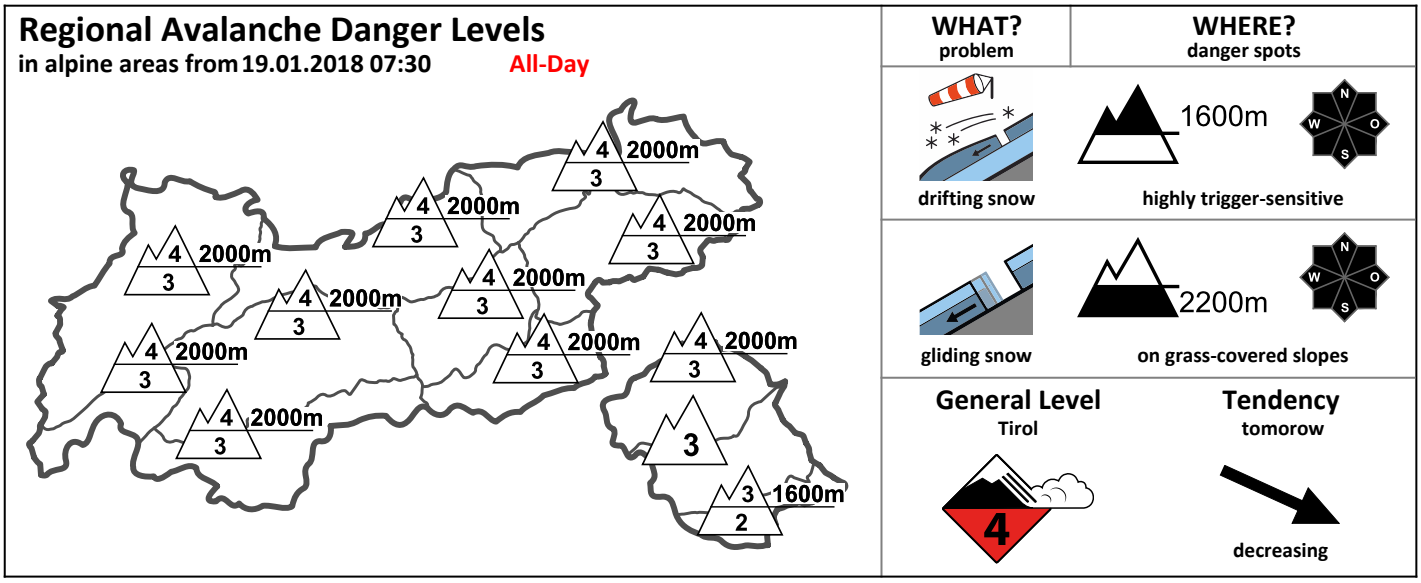
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 19.01.2018, at 07:30 Uhr



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

A day promising accidents: treacherous backcountry situation!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger remains quite tense for backcountry skiers and freeriders. In North Tirol and the East Tirolean Tauern, danger above 2000 m is just at level 4, high. This is due to the likelihood of skiers and freeriders triggering avalanches. Danger zones are found above 1600 m in all aspects, but particularly on W/N/E facing slopes, even remote triggerings are possible in flatter terrain, meaning that avalanches can grow to large size. On the other hand, the danger of naturally triggered avalanches has diminished significantly, most likely in heavily wind-impacted terrain near ridgelines and very steep slopes at high altitudes. Gliding avalanches remain a threat on steep, grass-covered slopes. In the regions where snowfall has been heaviest, the danger of falling into a glide crack requires caution. The situation is better wherever backcountry tours have tracked the terrain continually. The regions of southern East Tirol also have better conditions, the drifts are smaller if just as easily triggered. We advise backcountry skiers and freeriders to exercise immense restraint. The inexperienced should not leave secured ski runs!

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is currently very unfavourable, due to highly irregular snow distribution. Winds broke down the layer of faceted snow crystals and surface hoar, but the snowpack has now been blanketed by varyingly thick layers of snowdrifts which are quite prone to triggering on W/N/E facing slopes. Inside the fresh snow there is still graupel, which provides another weak layer at high altitude. Settling noises (whumpf!), avalanche triggerings by skiers, all speak a message loud and clear: the snowpack is likely to trigger. Higher temperatures are having a positive effect on the snowpack at intermediate altitudes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

On the northern flank of the Alps, snowfall will taper off this morning, bright intervals are possible, clouds could disperse somewhat, visibility improve. Towards evening in Arlberg and Ausserfern regions, cloud will again move in. In the Dolomites and Carnic Alps, dry and partly cloudy. Temperature at 2000 m: -4 to -7 degrees; at 3000 m: -10 to -15 degrees. Strong to stormy westerly winds at high altitudes, gradually tapering off.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will slowly diminish.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**