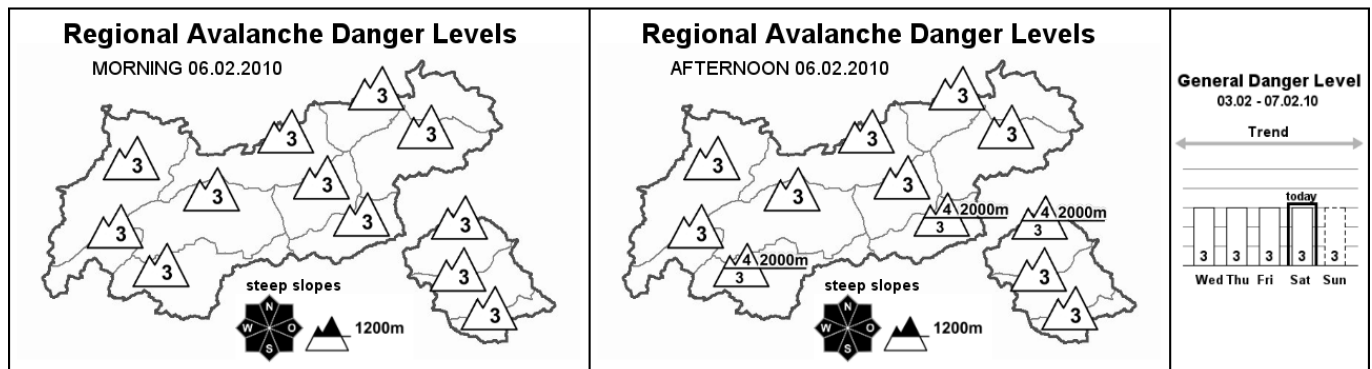


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 06.02.2010, at 07:30



Avalanche danger could rise to high, over course of day

AVALANCHE DANGER

Considerable avalanche danger prevails widespread. The situation is highly treacherous for backcountry skiers and freeriders, who can still trigger avalanches with ease in steep terrain; moreover the likelihood of triggering avalanches sharply increases with the steepness gradient. The frequency of avalanches which have caught people in their wake confirms this in dramatic manner. The avalanche prone locations are currently to be found in all expositions, but even more frequently in northwest to north to south facing terrain. Depending on how heavy the precipitation is today, avalanche danger above approximately 2000 m could well climb to Level 4 ("high"). In extremely steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, particularly in northeast to east to south expositions, naturally triggered avalanches which attain medium size are increasingly possible, especially in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, since the winds there - in the eastern parts in particular - are expected to increase in velocity as of late afternoon.

SNOW LAYERING

All snow analyses of the last week have corroborated the unchanged poor bonding of the snowdrift masses which formed after 28 January with the old snowpack. This snowpack is faceted widely spread, intensively influenced by the wind at high altitudes. Thin, hardened intermediate layers are often surrounded by layers of depth hoar. Settling noises and glide cracks which appear upon entering the slopes are currently a permanent factor in terrain which has not yet been skied on.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Generally poor visibility due to fog and snowfall, which will taper off in the course of the day in inneralpine regions and even pause intermittently. In the northern barrier regions it will snow a bit longer. In the Dolomites, some snowfall to begin with, generally dry this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Westerly winds at high altitudes, later shifting to northerly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger remains tense and threatening for backcountry skiers and freeriders.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe