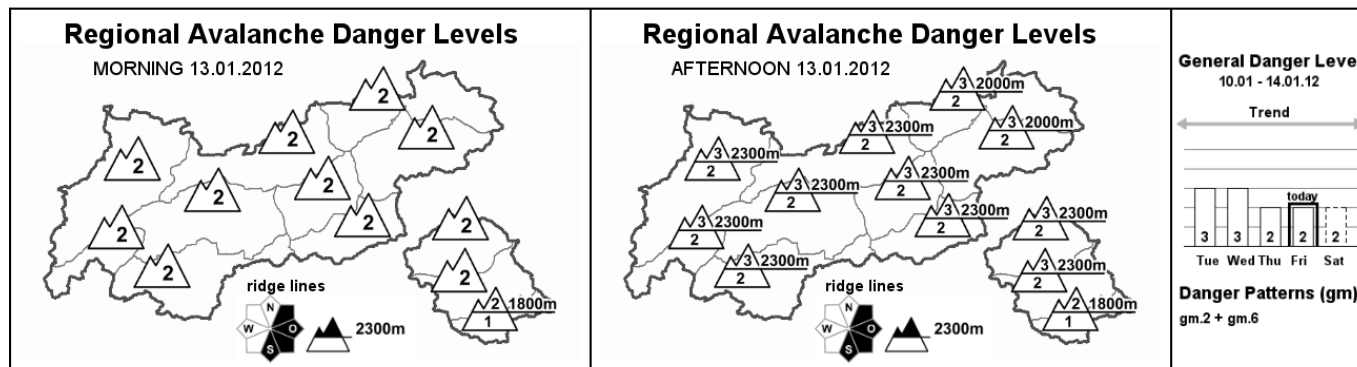


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 13.01.2012, at 07:30



Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift at high altitudes. Ongoing danger of full depth snowslides

AVALANCHE DANGER

Moderate avalanche danger prevails, which during the course of the day will rise to considerable over approximately 2300 m. The snowfall which is just beginning, and which is being transported by the increasingly strong winds, is responsible for the escalating danger. Newly formed danger zones (because of the wind direction) are to be found particularly on very steep slopes near ridgelines in northeastern to eastern to southern aspects. With some experience in evaluating avalanche dangers, these drifted masses can be easily recognized, as long as visibility permits it. They are most easily triggered at high altitudes, and even minimum additional loading is sufficient to do so. However, the major peril still lies in full depth snowslides which can be released on steep, grassy slopes. In the regions where snowfall has been heaviest, these snowslides can reach large size. Areas below glide cracks should be avoided. Caution is also urged in steep terrain above approximately 2500 m in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, where slab avalanches can be triggered in transition areas from shallow to deep snow by large additional loading. This applies mainly to shady terrain, although on glaciers also in all other aspects as well.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is generally quite stable. Only in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m is there a fundament of depth hoar which still can serve as bed surface even for large sized avalanches. In addition, there is a thin, faceted layer beneath the thin surface crust which formed at New Year, particularly in central East Tirol. It occurs especially frequently between 1600 and about 1800 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies in the path of a cold front moving in from the northwest. On the weekend, a cold northerly air current will gain dominance and the air will become drier from the west. As of the middle of next week, unstable conditions will probably return. Mountain weather today: overcast this morning, often foggy, with snowfall. The new fallen snow will be accompanied by intermittently stormy winds. This afternoon, occasional snow showers, especially in eastern regions. All in all, 5 to 15 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be dry and pleasant, but windy. Temperature at 2000 m: cooling from minus 5 down to minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: dropping from minus 10 to minus 17 degrees. Strong to storm strength northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

For a brief period, caution is necessary towards fresh snowdrift near ridgelines. Otherwise, the situation remains largely unchanged.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe