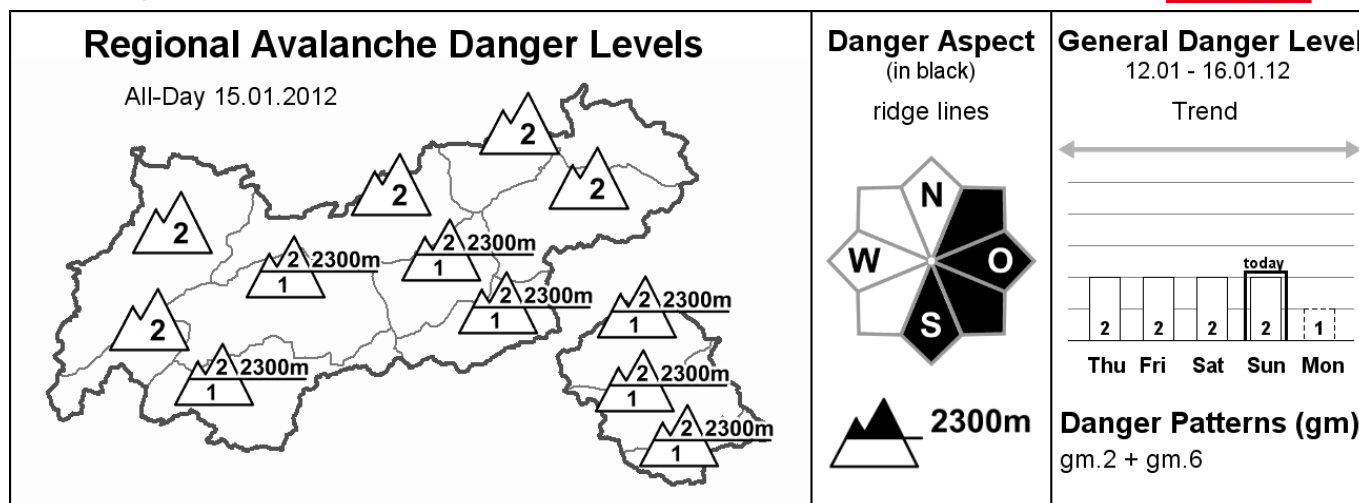


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 15.01.2012, at 07:30



Generally favourable avalanche conditions - full depth snowslides are main danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has receded and can be generally categorised as moderate; below about 2300 m in some regions it is low. The main peril stems from full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes. Due to the low temperatures, these avalanches are triggered less often than last week, but their release is possible at any time. Areas below glide cracks should thus be avoided altogether. Caution is also necessary above approximately 2500 m in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, where in the northern aspects (and on glaciers in all aspects) of transition areas from shallow to deep snow slab avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading. Such avalanches can attain large size. In addition, on steep, northeast to east to south facing slopes near ridgelines, small sized snowdrift masses above approximately 2300 m can be disturbed by backcountry skiers and freeriders. With ascending altitude, their trigger sensitivity increases.

SNOW LAYERING

Numerous examinations of the snowpack last week confirmed that the snowpack has now stabilised well. One pronounced weak layer is still evident above approximately 2500 m, particularly in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, namely, a layer of depth hoar near the ground which formed in autumn and is poorly bonded with the old snowpack in places. The snow is generally very deep; this layer is likely to trigger only in spots where snow depths are shallow. Near the treeline, typically between 1600 m and 1800 m, especially in central East Tirol, there also is a thin, faceted layer beneath an equally thin melt-freeze crust from New Year's which is triggerable in places.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low hangs over eastern Europe, a high over western Europe. The Alps lie in between, in the path of a cold northerly air current. Tirol will receive the benefits of the high. Not until later in the coming week is the next round of precipitation expected. Mountain weather today: splendid sunshine is anticipated in the mountains, under cloudless skies. But be prepared for low temperatures. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 13 to minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 16 to minus 13 degrees. Moderate northerly winds at high altitudes, otherwise winds will be light.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable backcountry touring conditions will continue

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe