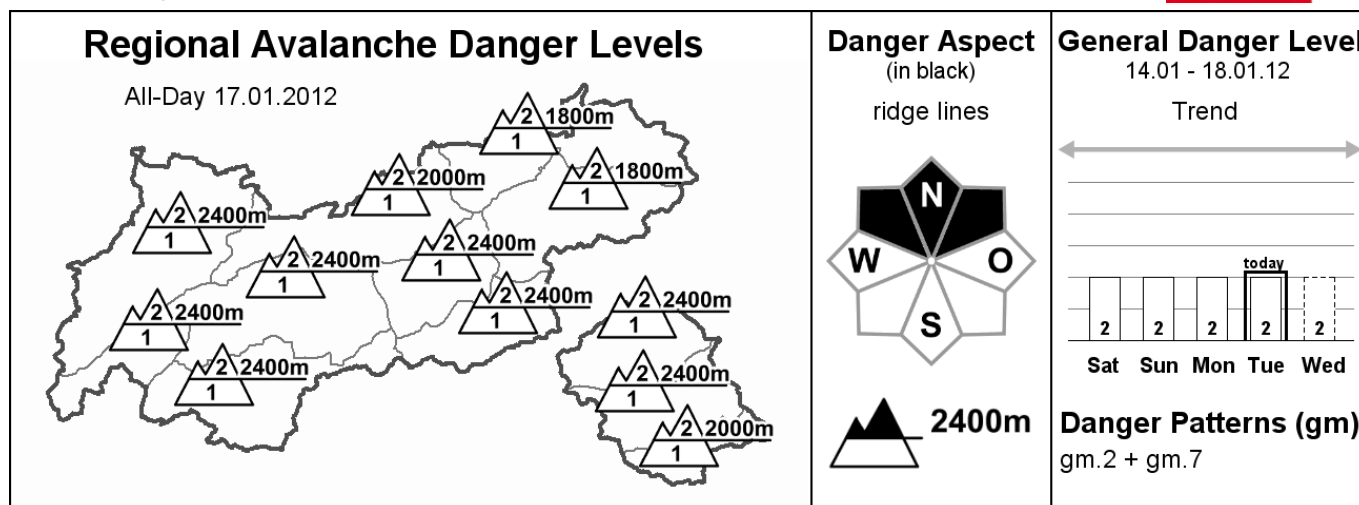


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 17.01.2012, at 07:30



Favourable touring conditions, avalanche danger generally moderate

AVALANCHE DANGER

The conditions for backcountry touring in Tirol are currently favourable, the danger of avalanches is predominantly moderate. Avalanche prone locations for dry slab avalanches are to be found in areas near ridgelines above approximately 2400 m, particularly in northwestern to northern to northeastern aspects, where older snowdrift masses can be triggered in isolated cases. This is ordinarily possible only through large additional loading, such as an entire group of backcountry skiers or freeriders who don't maintain distances between persons. Transition areas from deep to shallow snow continue to require critical evaluation. And below about 2400 m, caution is still urged towards naturally triggered full depth snowslides. This peril is especially pronounced on steep, grassy slopes in eastern to southern to western aspects.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has settled and consolidated well far and wide. Above the treeline, however, the great impact of wind has to be taken into consideration: broad ridges and knolls utterly windblown, often adjacent to gullies or bowls full of drifted snow. The layers most easily disturbed are in high alpine, shady terrain along the Main Alpine Ridge, where the snow of autumn has formed faceted crystals, thus transforming the fundameto to depth hoar.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies at the rim of a high pressure system. A weak perturbation will traverse its eastern regions today. On Wednesday, an intermediate high will dominate. On Thursday, a warm front from the northwest will bring a stark change in conditions. Mountain weather today: quite sunny on the Main Alpine Ridge and west of the Brenner Pass, as well as in South Tirol and the southern ranges of East Tirol. Heavy cloud cover and light snow showers are expected in the eastern part of the Northern and Central Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Moderate to brisk northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe