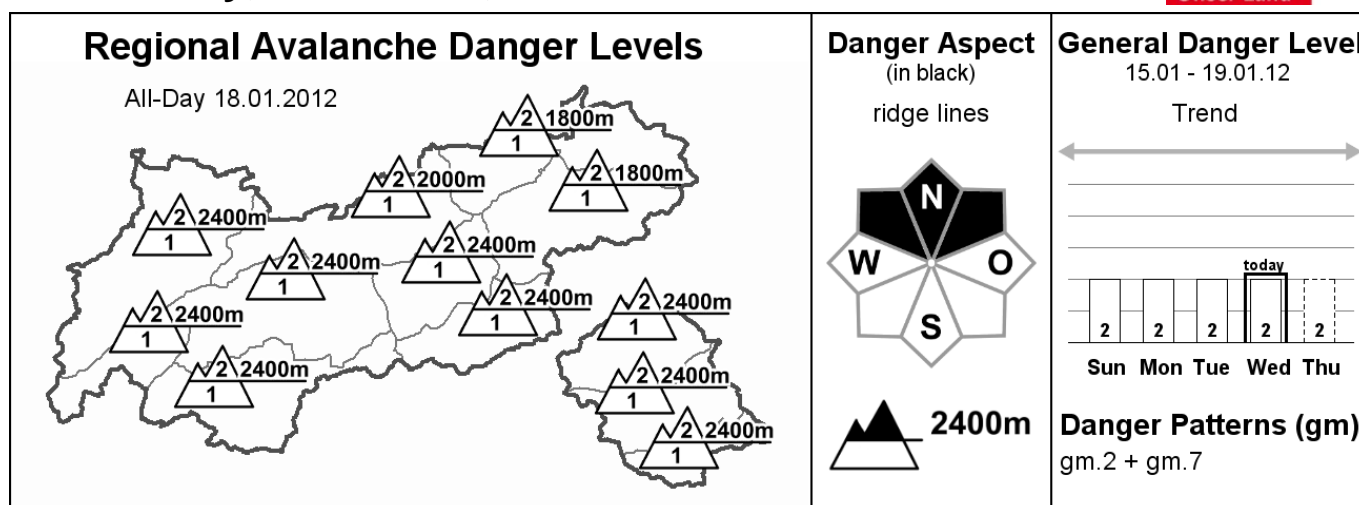


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 18.01.2012, at 07:30



Favourable touring conditions far and wide, amidst moderate danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tirol's backcountry touring regions the conditions continue to be favourable widespread today. The generally moderate danger of dry slab avalanches is focused on ridgelines above approximately 2400 m, particularly in northwestern to northern to northeastern aspects, where small sized snowdrift masses in particular can be triggered by large additional loading, such as a group of skiers or freeriders without distances between persons. Special caution is also urged in transition areas from deep to shallow snow. Below about 2400 m, the danger of naturally triggered full depth snowslides continues, on steep, grassy, east to south to west facing slopes more than anywhere else. Areas below open glide cracks should be avoided.

SNOW LAYERING

Snow depths are above average throughout Tirol. The snowpack has settled and consolidated quite well over the last few days. Above the treeline, the wind impact is evident everywhere: utterly windblown or wind-compressed surfaces lie immediately adjacent to deeply snowdrifted areas of terrain. A pronounced weak layer inside the snowpack can be found in high alpine regions along the Main Alpine Ridge: near the ground is a fundament of depth hoar, produced as the snows from autumn transformed to loosely packed, unbonded crystals.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high pressure system extending from Spain to central Europe dominates today's weather in western Austria. As of Thursday, a northwesterly air current will take over and bring a quick succession of warm and cold fronts to the northern flank of the Alps, accompanied by precipitation. Mountain weather today: winter sports lovers can take advantage of full sunshine again today, including good visibility, light winds and slightly less frosty air. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 12 to minus 9 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst snowfall and wind, avalanche danger will rise slightly on Thursday, noticeably on Friday,

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe