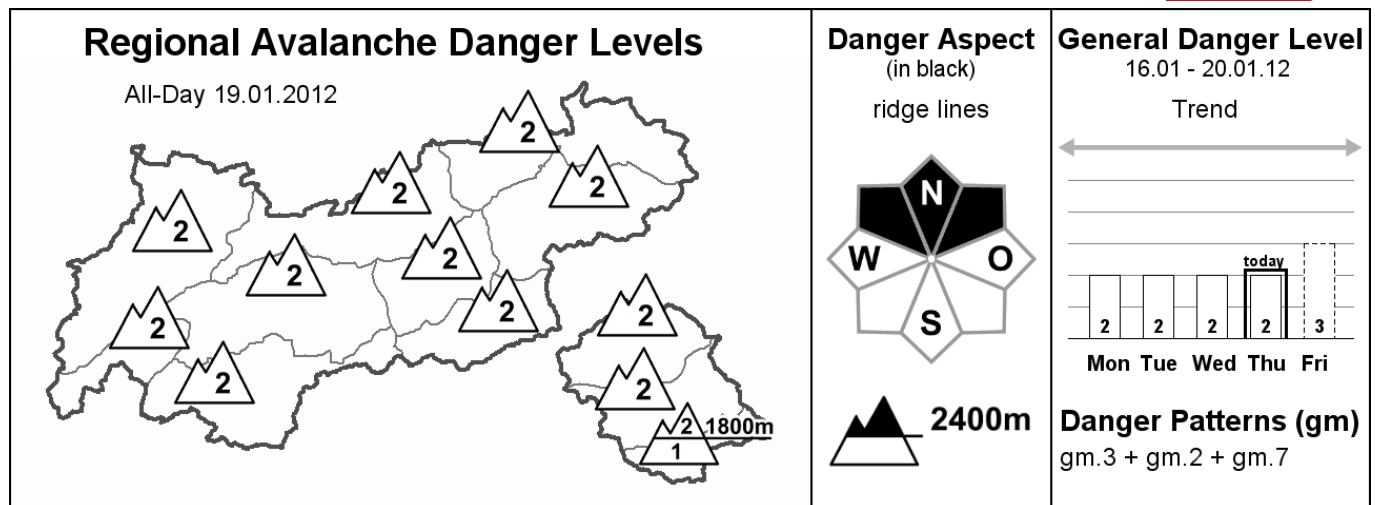


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 19.01.2012, at 07:30



Slightly heightened avalanche danger, general danger level still moderate

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tyrol is no longer as favourable as in recent days, but the danger level remains moderate in general. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in areas adjacent to ridgelines as well as in gullies and bowls above approximately 2400 m in northwestern to northern to northeastern aspects. The intensifying winds will bring about new, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations. Below about 2400 m, naturally triggered full depth snowslides can be expected again. In addition, the snowpack will forfeit its firmness over the course of the day due to rainfall, thus heightening avalanche danger.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has now settled and consolidated well, the snow layering is thus generally favourable. In high alpine regions the snowpack surface is highly varied and irregular, due to wind impact: windblown spots utterly free of snow are often right next to meter-deep snowdrift masses. Only in wind protected spots can loosely packed snow still be found. A pronounced weak layer in the form of loosely packed depth hoar occurs especially in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m. Attention: particularly between 1800 and 2500 m, the snowpack surface is often faceted and loosely packed, in some places there is even surface hoar. This creates a critical situation for subsequent snowfall.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a powerful northwesterly air current has reached the Alps. In quick succession, a series of warm and cold fronts will pass through, bringing the northern flank of the Alps heavy precipitation. Mountain weather today: the cloud cover will drop further, the higher peaks will become shrouded in fog and snowfall will commence, which will be rain below 1700 m. From the north towards the south, the amount of precipitation will lessen. In the Southern Alps it is overcast, with diffuse visibility. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Strong westerly winds, in the Northern Alps the wind will be stormy.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst snowfall and stormy northwesterly winds, noticeably escalating avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe