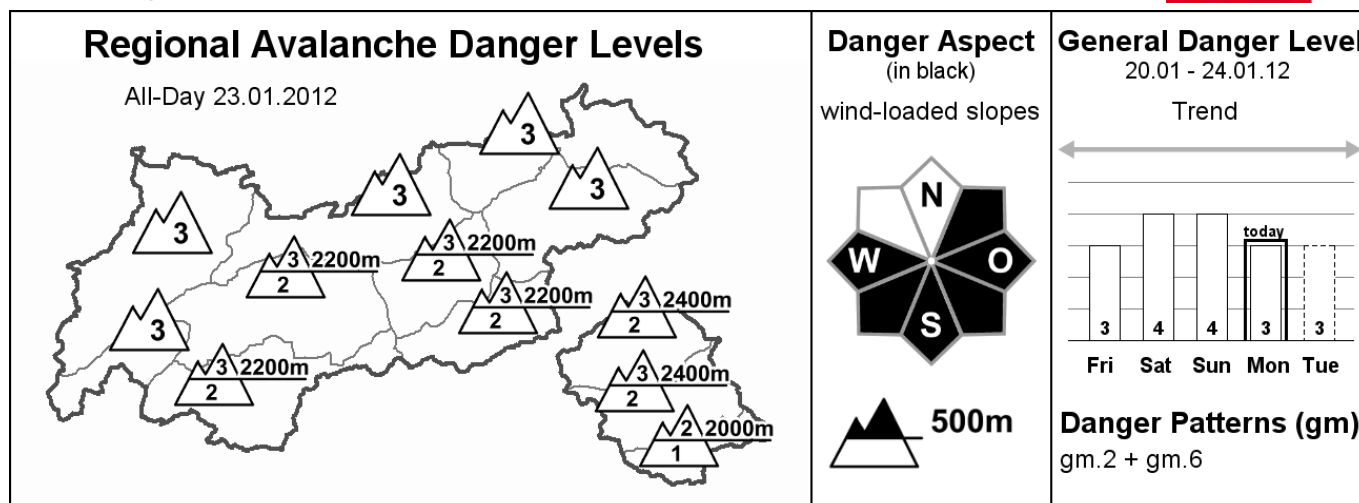


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 23.01.2012, at 07:30



Caution: full depth snowslides below 2400 m, fresh snowdrift above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has receded. Nevertheless, the danger level - particularly in the regions where snow is deepest and where there are many grassy slopes - is generally considerable. In the remaining regions of Tyrol, the danger is contingent on altitude: above approximately 2200 m, the danger level is considerable; below that altitude, it is moderate. The conditions in southern East Tyrol are more favourable. There are two distinct danger scenarios: the major peril stems from full depth snowslides below about 2400 m, particularly in eastern to southern to western aspects, at lower altitudes in all aspects. On steep, grassy slopes avalanches can be released which attain medium size. On the other hand, fresh snowdrift accumulations, particularly above approximately 2200 m, require special caution, since they can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, on steep, northeast to east to southeast facing slopes near ridgelines more than anywhere else. Their trigger sensitivity increases with ascending altitude. Above about 2500 m, especially along the Main Alpine Ridge in very steep, shady transition areas from shallow to deep snow, slab avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading in the weak layer near the ground.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has settled very well over the last 24 hours, thus becoming quite stable at least at low and intermediate altitudes. Caution is required, however, since the heavy rainfall has made the snow thoroughly wet at least up to the treeline. This has created a thin film of water between the ground and the old fundament which can serve as a bed surface for avalanches on steep, grassy slopes. At higher altitudes, the wind influence is everywhere evident; snow continues to be extensively transported in places. Newly formed snowdrift masses, particularly at higher altitudes, can be triggered by backcountry skiers and freeriders. Particularly in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m, the layer of depth hoar near the ground which formed in autumn requires extra caution.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high over the Atlantic, a low over the Baltic, resulting in a westerly to northwesterly air current in which an active cold front is embedded that will reach us tomorrow. Mountain weather today: on the southern side of the Alps, and even on the Main Alpine Ridge, some sunny weather today. On the northern flank of the Alps, poor visibility with intermittently light snowfall, somewhat heavier in the Lower Inn Valley. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds, in exposed terrain winds will be noticeably stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

To begin with, no significant change in avalanche danger

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe