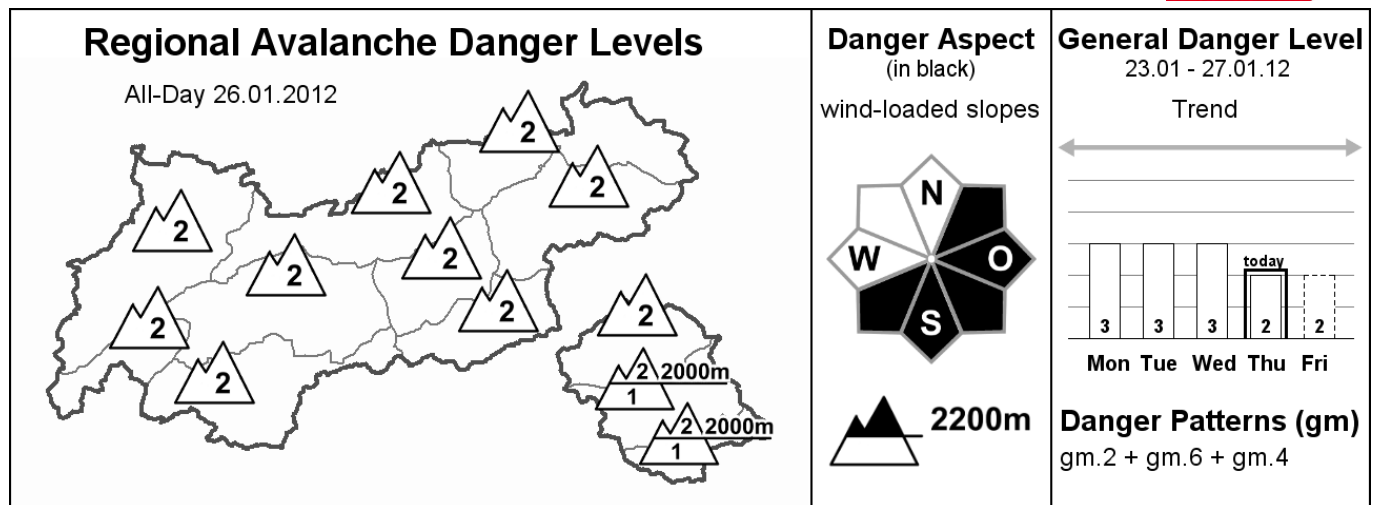


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 26.01.2012, at 07:30



Generally favourable conditions - Caution towards full depth snowslides and fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has receded, the danger level can now be categorized as moderate. The major peril stems once again from full depth snowslides which - despite the low temperatures - can be released at any and all times down steep, grassy slopes. Areas below glide cracks in the snowpack should be avoided whenever possible. Additional danger zones, i.e. where the snowpack can be triggered by large additional loading, are to be found above approximately 2200 m: freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in very steep, northeast to east to southwest facing ridgeline areas are trigger sensitive. Further, between about 1600 and 1800 m, the loosely packed snow beneath a thin rain crust can be triggered in isolated cases. And lastly, in transition areas from shallow to deep snow in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, particularly on shady, very steep slopes above approximately 2500 m, isolated avalanches can be triggered.

SNOW LAYERING

For a course given by the Avalanche Commission at the military base in Schwaz, it was possible yesterday to visit the danger spots in a military helicopter and dig profiles in the snowpack. The overall picture is good: the snowpack is generally compact. Pronounced weak layers are rare. One such weak layer is the fundament of depth hoar above approximately 2500 m along the Main Alpine Ridge on shady slopes (on glaciers in all aspects). Then, there is a thin rain crust from last weekend between 1600 and 1800 m, beneath which faceted crystals have formed in isolated cases. Fresh snowdrift, particularly at high altitude where it borders on loosely packed fresh fallen snow can also be disturbed.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Thursday will be a day of high pressure influence; as of Friday, a low will move in from western Europe, creating unstable conditions over the weekend. Mountain weather today: gorgeous, sunny mountain weather, only towards evening will a few clouds move in from the far west. Towards the Lower Inn Valley and Tauern Ridge, it will be noticeably colder; towards the Upper Inn Valley, milder. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 to minus 8 degrees. Light northwesterly to westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe