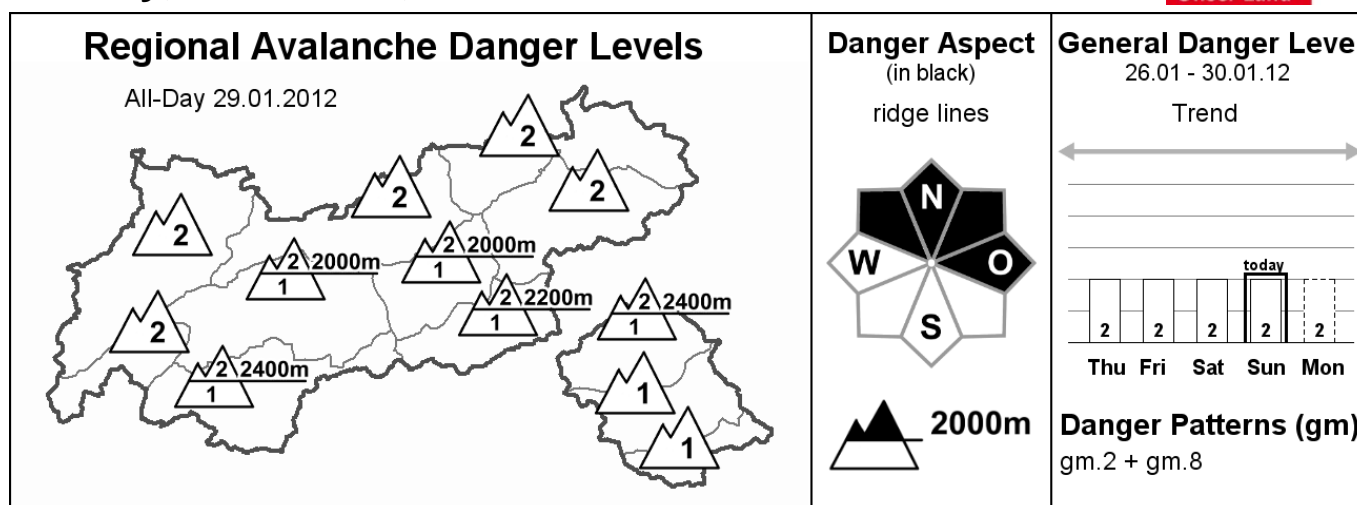


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 29.01.2012, at 07:30



Ongoing favourable touring conditions - Beware full depth snowslides!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Favourable backcountry touring conditions prevail, accompanied by moderate, in some places even low danger. The danger level in the regions with most snow, where there are also many steep, grassy slopes, is moderate in general, i.e. in Silvretta-Samnaun, Arlberg-Ausserfern, the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps. Caution is urged towards full depth snowslides which are expected to be more frequent today below about 1800 m, due to the thoroughly wet snowpack since yesterday. Full depth snowslides can currently be large sized, due to the extraordinary snow depths. We advise avoiding all areas below glide cracks. An additional danger scenario comes from the fresh snowdrift accumulations in steep, northwest to north to east facing ridgeline areas above approximately 2000 m. This is especially true in foehn-exposed area and high alpine terrain. Snowdrift masses are easily discerned, but caution, they can be triggered. The snowpack in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m in steep, north facing terrain, especially in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, can be triggered by large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is generally stable. Pronounced weak layers are lacking. Only in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m are there on north facing slopes (on glaciers also in other aspects) layers near the ground consisting of depth hoar. This fundament formed in autumn and can currently serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. Elsewhere, surface hoar has formed over the last few days which the high temperatures dissolved yesterday, at least below the treeline. Above the treeline, it provides a weak layer for the snowdrift accumulations on top of it. Surface hoar is also evident at higher altitudes, particularly in areas adjacent to ridgelines, the so-called Nigg effect.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: wedged between a powerful high pressure system over the Baltac countries and another over the Atlantic, low pressure prevails today in Tirol. The air masses are moist, but not especially cold. In the course of the coming week, Siberian cold will flow over the land. Mountain weather today: residual clouds draping the mountain flanks will impede visibility at low and intermediate altitudes, higher altitude cloudbanks will make visibility diffuse. However, precipitation is not anticipated and it will not be very cold. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate southerly to easterly winds, somewhat more brisk in the foehn-exposed areas.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable backcountry touring conditions continue. Caution towards full depth snowslides and small, fresh snowdrift masses near ridgelines.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe