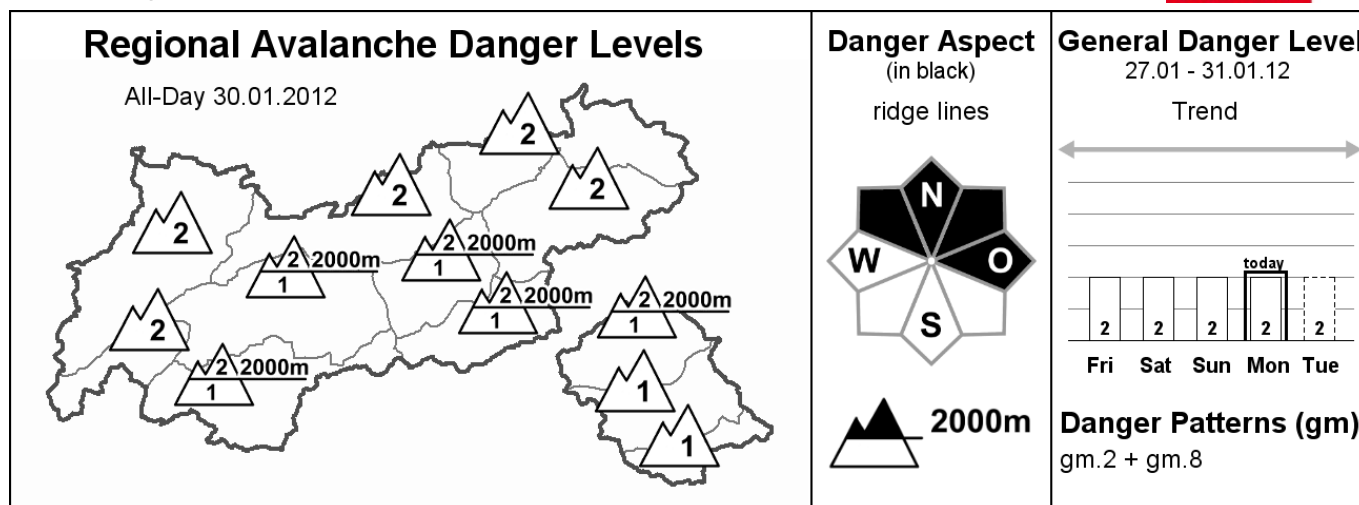


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 30.01.2012, at 07:30



Favourable touring conditions - Beware full depth snowslides

AVALANCHE DANGER

Predominantly favourable conditions prevail in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, amidst generally moderate avalanche danger. The peril of dry, slab avalanches is mainly to be found in steep areas near ridgelines above approximately 2000 m, especially in northwestern to northern to eastern aspects. And freshly formed snowdrift accumulations need to be cautiously evaluated. Below about 2400 m, full depth snowslides can still be naturally triggered. Due to the extraordinary snow depths, such slides can reach medium size. The hazard is greatest on steep, grassy slopes in western to southern to eastern aspects. In isolated cases, exposed sections of transportation routes can be placed at risk.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has settled and consolidated well, by and large, and now lacks pronounced, area-wide weak layers. Only along the Main Alpine Ridge has the snow from autumn above about 2500 m transformed to depth hoar, thus providing a bed surface for avalanches in places. Over the last few days, in addition, surface hoar has formed increasingly frequently, especially in high alpine areas adjacent to ridgelines. This layer is possibly a weak, triggerable layer beneath freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a cold high pressure system is centered over Russia and will extend its impact to the Alps over the course of this week. From Benelux to the western Mediterranean, two high-low systems are spread which are bringing moist air masses to the upper atmosphere. Mountain weather today: at lower altitudes up to about 1500-1800 m, high fog will often bring poor visibility, above that altitude conditions are more pleasant and partly sunny. During the late afternoon, high altitude cloudbanks will reach western Tyrol. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. High altitude southeasterly winds at light to moderate velocity; in the mountains of Wipptal, the southerly foehn wind will be brisk.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable touring conditions continue, but caution: full depth snowslides

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe