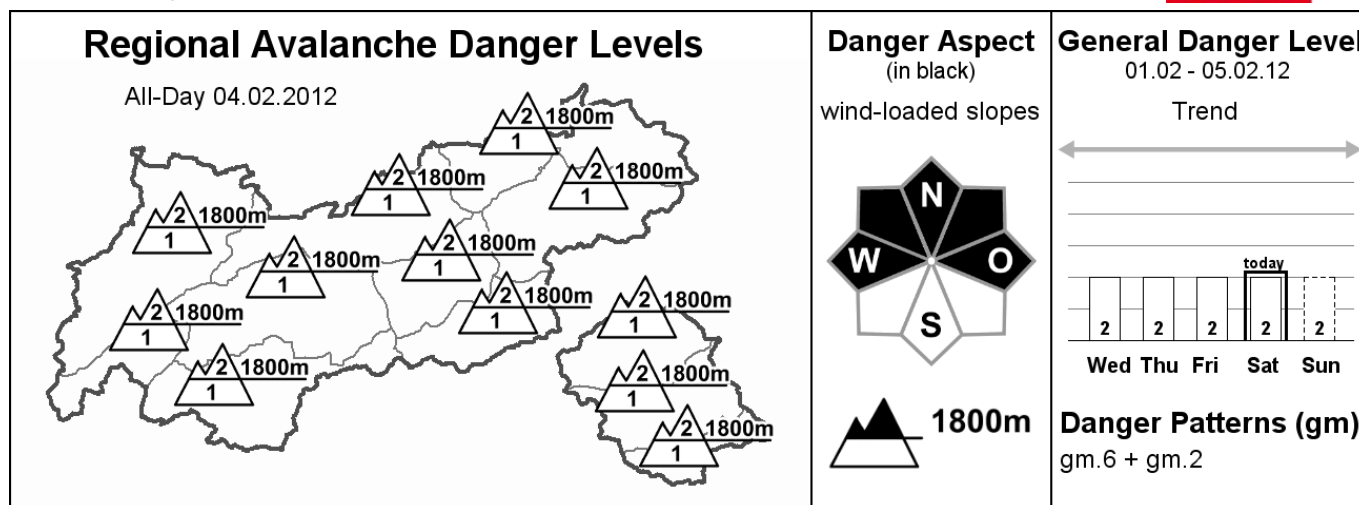


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 04.02.2012, at 07:30



Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol has increased, but is still predominantly moderate. Caution is urged above all else towards fresh snowdrift masses which are being formed continually. Due to the polar temperatures, they are very brittle and, for that reason, can be easily triggered. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridgelines above approximately 1800 m, especially in western to northern to eastern aspects. Both the frequency and the spread of these danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude; even during the course of the day, the danger is expected to escalate somewhat, due to wind activity. The hazards of full depth snowslides have receded a notch. Below about 2400 m, isolated full depth snowslides can still be naturally triggered, particularly on steep, grassy, east to south to west facing slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow layering is favourable, by and large, the old snowpack has settled well and is stable. Only in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge is there in high alpine regions a fundament of unbonded depth hoar. Caution is urged: there is repeatedly a bit of snowfall and due to the low temperatures, this very light snow is extremely loose and dry, making it easy for the wind to transport. Thereby, snowdrift accumulations are ongoingly being formed anew; these snow masses are highly brittle and thus, trigger sensitive. Attention: particularly today, the strong northerly wind will give rise to far reaching new snowdrift accumulations.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the high over Russia and its cold, continental air masses still have Tirol fast in their grip. At the same time, a low over Italy is extending its influence to western Austria, bringing somewhat moister air masses to the region between East Tirol and North Tirol's Lower Inn Valley. Tomorrow, Sunday, the air will become drier again. Mountain weather today: arctic cold, partially impaired visibility due to cloudbanks moving in, possibly bringing light snowfall this afternoon to the Rofan range, Zillertal and Carnic Alps. Towards the Lechtal Alps, it is likely to remain dry, amidst bright spells, accompanied by northeasterly winds which at times will be strong, making the hazards of freezing acute. Whoever participates in winter sports today despite the cold should be as well protected as possible. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 20 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 24 degrees. Moderate to strong velocity northeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe