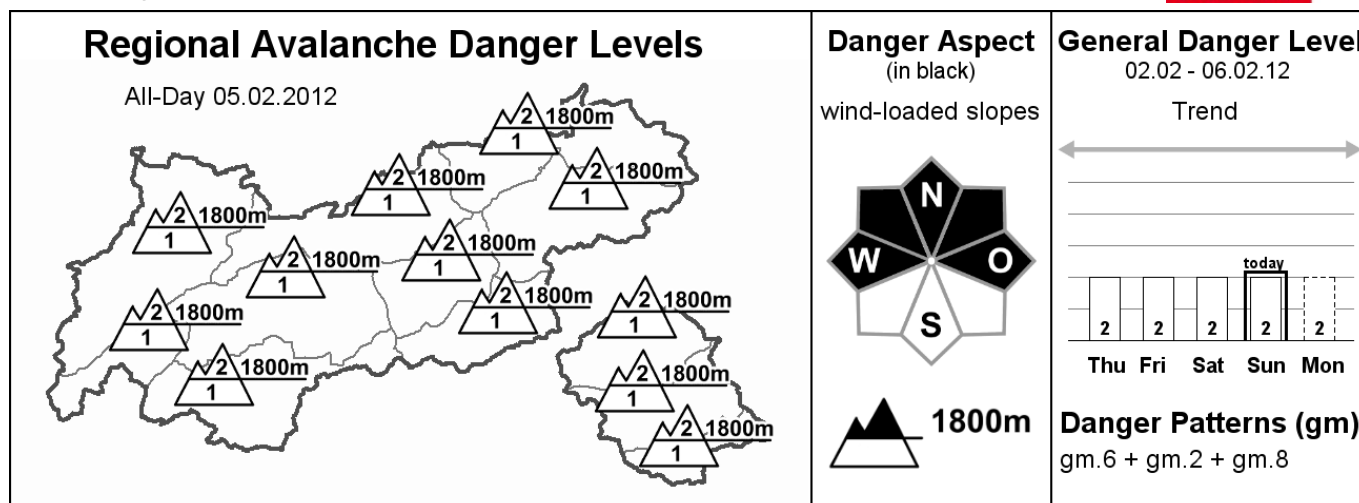


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 05.02.2012, at 07:30



Caution urged towards fresh, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

Conditions in Tirol's backcountry touring regions have deteriorated somewhat, but the avalanche danger level is still generally moderate. Nevertheless, heightened caution is required towards freshly formed, brittle snowdrift masses which can be triggered with increasing ease by minimum additional loading. That in itself brings the danger level very close to 'considerable'. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in ridgeline areas above approximately 1800 m, especially in western to northern to eastern aspects. A prudent route selection is recommended. In isolated cases, naturally triggered full depth snowslides are still possible on steep, grassy slopes in eastern to southern to western aspects.

SNOW LAYERING

Overall, the old snowpack has settled and consolidated well; it is stable and area-wide weak layers are lacking, by and large. However, the persistent cold wave brings its own special risks. On the one hand, the transformation to faceted snow crystals is facilitated, which makes the snowpack increasingly unbonded. On the other, there are repeated dustings of small amounts of very light, dry snowfall which is easily transported. Due to the low temperatures, the snowdrift accumulations which form are brittle and prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the high over northeastern Europe will continue to funnel cold, continental air masses to Tirol today. At higher altitude, today and tomorrow, Austria lies precisely beneath the core of a narrow-banded low pressure system which stretches from Scandinavia to North Africa. On Tuesday, the high over Russia will recede to the northeast, the low over Italy will intensify and bring moist air masses our way. Mountain weather today: crunchy snow underfoot which will sparkle in the sunshine to the west of the Karwendel-Brenner line. From the Zillertal sector of the Main Alpine Ridge over the Hohe Tauern to the Wilder Kaiser, visibility will be impaired by clouds and fog. Those engaging in winter sports again need adequate protection against the cold. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 20 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 21 degrees. Brisk northeasterly winds between the Lechtal Alps and the Arlberg, elsewhere winds will be light to moderate.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe