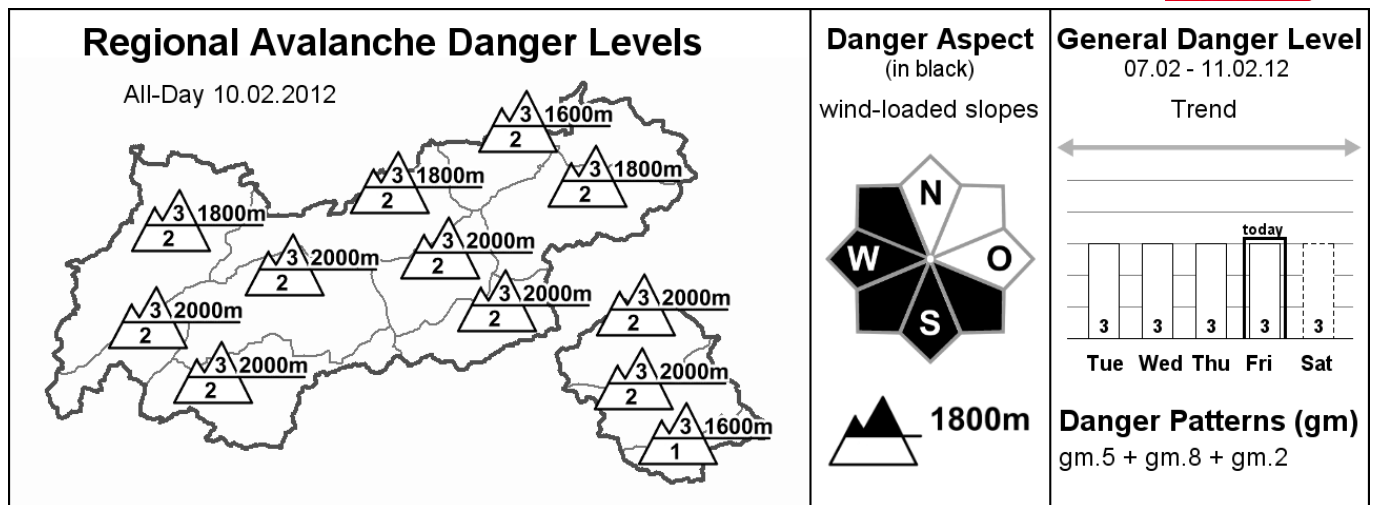


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 10.02.2012, at 07:30



Beware fresh, usually small snowdrift accumulations: they are highly trigger sensitive

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is now heightened also at lower altitudes, ever since the wind intensified yesterday; even below the treeline, the danger level is now moderate. Above that altitude, the danger level continues to be considerable. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which have formed over the last week and vary highly from place to place. They often occur in ridgeline areas, as well as in gullies and bowls. With the exception of the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, they are relatively small and shallow, but are extremely easy to trigger even by minimum additional loading. Our urgent recommendation: consequently avoid freshly formed snowdrift masses in steep terrain. In wind protected areas, favourable conditions continue to prevail, accompanied by marvellous powder snow. However, even in such areas, caution is urged towards full depth snowslides which can be released down steep, grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The long enduring cold period has often transformed the snow surface to faceted crystals. In addition, surface hoar has been blanketed over by very light, dry snowfall in many places. This provides the worst possible set of conditions for snowdrift to be deposited atop of, since these layers can bond only very inadequately with each other. The more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are better structured, the fundament is generally compact. Only in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m is there a layer of depth hoar near the ground which persists from autumn. However, a triggering of this layer currently appears unlikely.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The Alps lie at the southern rim of a cold, high pressure system centered over Russia and southern Scandinavia, in the path of an enduring easterly cold air current. In addition, a small low with towering cold air masses will traverse Tirol today. Mountain weather today: bitter cold, subjectively intensified by easterly winds in some places. Insignificant snowfall this morning along the Northern Alps and in the Lower Inn Valley of North Tirol, where this afternoon above approximately 2000 m, the sun will gradually make an appearance (in high alpine regions, it will turn sunny during the morning). At low altitudes, the fog-like clouds will persist. In the Dolomites, high altitude cloudbanks will move in during the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 20 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 26 degrees. Moderate to brisk easterly winds, varying from region to region.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

To begin with, no significant change in avalanche situation

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe