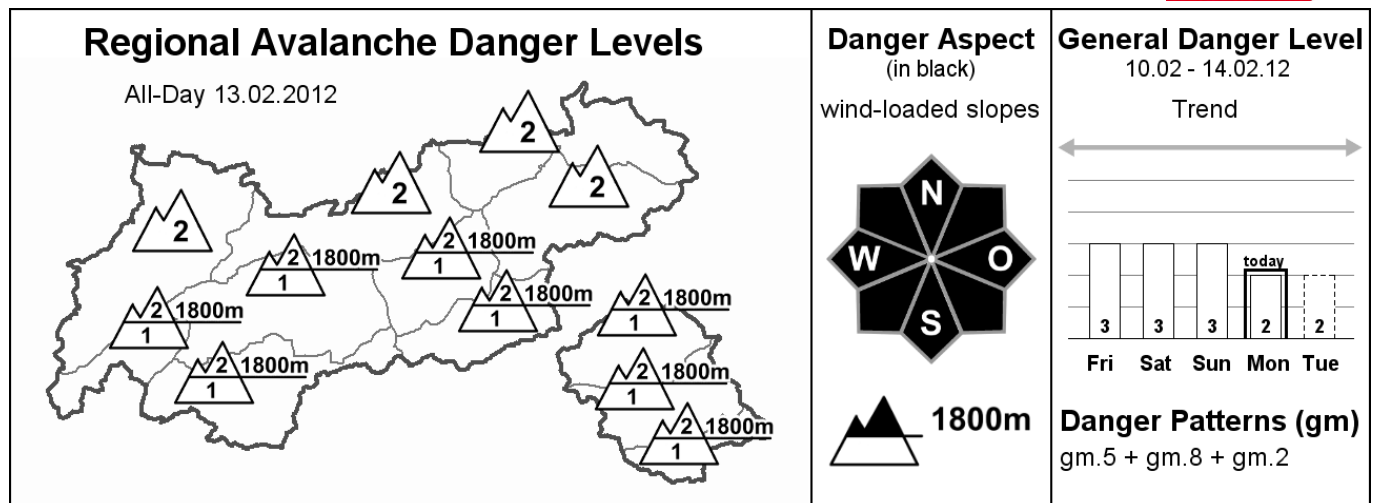


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 13.02.2012, at 07:30



Moderate danger above the treeline - Snowdrift still requires caution

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level has receded somewhat and can now be categorised as moderate above the treeline. Below that altitude, it is low in some places. The major peril continues to stem from recently formed snowdrift accumulations, occurring most frequently in south to west to north facing ridgeline areas, as well as gullies and bowls in all aspects. Their proneness to triggering has diminished somewhat, but in some places they can still be released by minimum additional loading, particularly in steep ridgeline areas and wind-exposed terrain near the treeline up to about 2500 m. With some experience, snowdrift accumulations can be easily recognized; they are usually small and shallow. The situation in the wind protected areas as well as on slopes which are much trodden and skied on is far better. Caution is still urged towards full depth snowslides, which continue to be possible on steep, grassy slopes. Large sized glide cracks in the snowpack can be indicators of imminent avalanche danger.

SNOW LAYERING

The cold has had a positive effect on the snowdrift accumulations, decreasing the tensions inside the generally shallow masses. Nonetheless, there are still isolated snowdrift accumulations which can be triggered by minimum additional loading, particularly in wind-exposed terrain just above the treeline to approximately 2500 m, where a cohesive layer of faceted snow crystals formed during the period of low temperatures. The base of the snowpack is stable, except in high alpine regions where the fundament consists of depth hoar from autumn which in exceptional cases can be triggered by large additional loading.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Wedged between a low over Russia and another low over the Mediterranean, Tirol lies in the path of a northwesterly, high altitude air current which is less cold than recently. Over Scandinavia, an additional low is forming which will bring snowfall towards mid-week. Mountain weather today: the peaks will be cloudless to begin with, but visibility will become increasingly diffuse. This afternoon, the mountains will attract more and more clouds, the visibility will worsen and by evening, light snowfall is anticipated from the north. In the Southern Alps the sunshine will persist a bit longer. Cold. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 16 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 degrees. Moderate westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Tomorrow will be like today, then the situation will deteriorate significantly

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe