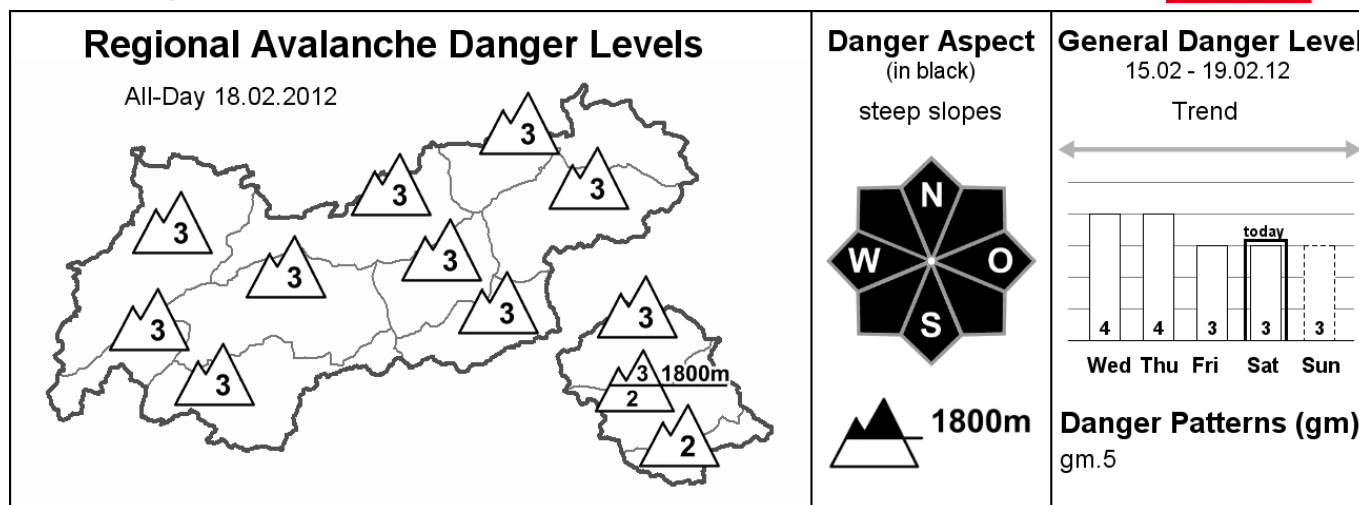


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 18.02.2012, at 07:30



Treacherous avalanche situation, considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

Treacherous conditions prevail in Tirol's backcountry touring regions. The avalanche danger is considerable far and wide. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. It is the snowdrift accumulations, more than anything else, which can be easily triggered as avalanches; even minimum additional loading is sufficient. The situation is currently least favourable in the altitude zone around the treeline. Skiing and freeriding tours require extensive experience; those without knowledge in evaluating the danger spots are urged not to leave the secured ski runs. Remote triggerings, far from the starting zone, are also possible. In addition, the strengthening solar radiation escalates the danger of naturally triggered avalanches over the course of the day. Below about 2400 m on steep, grassy, east to south to west facing slopes, caution is urged again today towards increasingly frequent full depth snowslides which are naturally triggered.

SNOW LAYERING

Throughout Tirol, the snow depths are above historical averages. The old snowpack has settled, it is stable and solid. The 14-day long cold wave has come to an end, but it caused the snow surface to mutate to faceted crystals, utterly unbonded to each other. Atop this perfect gliding surface, the most recent layers of fresh fallen snow have been deposited, and then snowdrift on top of that, making the proneness to triggering high.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: an intermediate high will bring warm air masses from the northwest today. Tomorrow, Sunday, a cold front will arrive. On Monday, the high pressure system will slowly regain influence from the west, and will persist at least until Wednesday. Mountain weather today: a few clouds will move over the summits. In western regions, it will turn sunny this morning. Between the Tux Alps and the Wilder Kaiser, it will turn sunnier as of about midday. In East Tirol's mountains, it may not turn sunny until this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Generally light westerly winds, reaching moderate velocity in high alpine regions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing considerable avalanche danger far and wide

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe