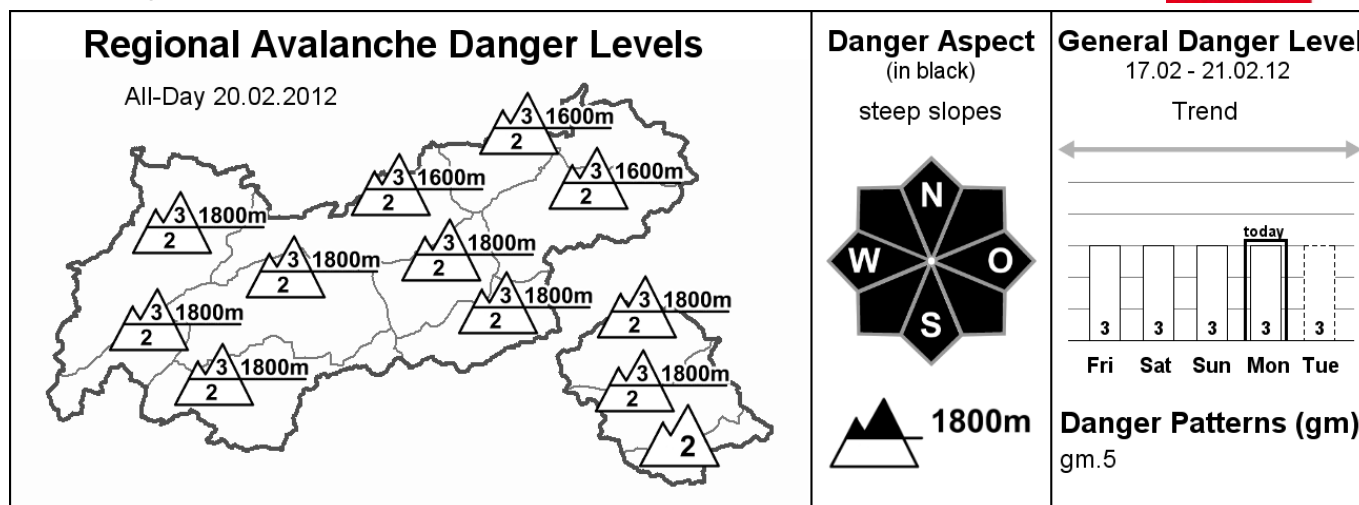


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 20.02.2012, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 1800 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is slowly receding, but above approximately 1800 m it is still considerable widespread. The major peril stems from the snowdrift accumulations of last week which are frequently blanketed over by new fallen snow, making them difficult to recognize in open terrain. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, especially in the treeline zone of about 1800 - 2400 m. Above that altitude, the danger tends to diminish somewhat. Below about 2400 m, isolated naturally triggered full depth snowslides still require caution. This danger prevails especially on steep, grassy slopes in eastern to southern to western aspects.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 5 to 10 cm of snowfall widespread in Tyrol, on the Main Alpine Ridge and in some inneralpine regions there was slightly more. The snow depths, particularly in North Tyrol, are above historic averages. The old snowpack has settled, it is solid and stable. The surface has often been hard compacted by winds, but in many places is loosely packed and faceted as a result of the long cold wave. Where these weak layers have been covered by fresh fallen and drifted snow from last week, the likelihood of avalanches triggering is quite high.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The perturbation is moving past, a high pressure system is moving towards Tyrol from the west, the air is getting drier. Over the next few days it will turn significantly milder. Mountain weather today: Visibility will be impaired to begin with by clouds, fog and final snow showers, which will then slacken off from the west. This afternoon, dry in many regions with increasing sunshine. In the Kitzbühel Alps and Tauern it will remain overcast longest. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 11 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 17 degrees. Generally light winds from northwesterly to northeasterly directions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is slowly diminishing

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe