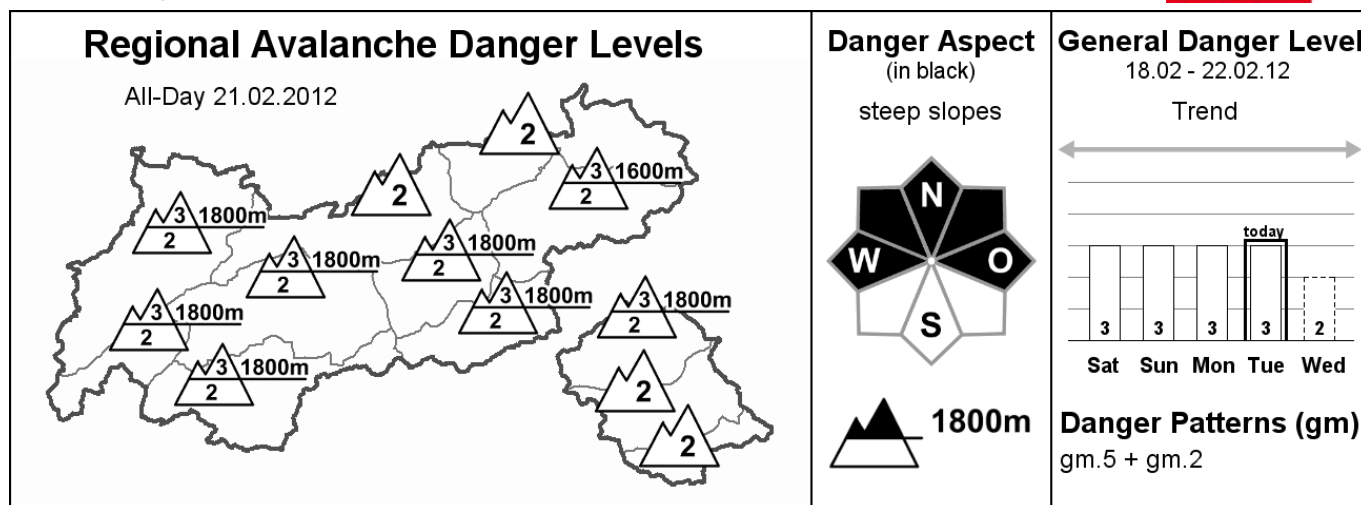


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 21.02.2012, at 07:30



Considerable and moderate avalanche danger levels

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has diminished somewhat, but above approximately 1800 m in some regions is still considerable. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in the treeline zone, i.e. between 1800 and 2400 m. Above that altitude, the frequency of danger zones tends to decrease. The major peril stems from older snowdrift accumulations on steep slopes in southwestern to northern to southeastern aspects, where avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, namely, the weight of a single backcountry skier or frerider. Below about 2400 m, particularly on steep, grassy, sun-bathed slopes, isolated full depth snowslides are still a danger and require caution.

SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack has settled well, it is solid and stable, as is usual in winters with above average snow depths. On the surface, a hard, wind-compacted layer is evident, particularly above the treeline. In some places, the uppermost layers mutated to loosely packed, faceted snow crystals during the long-enduring cold wave; when these unbonded layers are blanketed over by snowdrift, the likelihood of avalanches triggering is still quite high.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A high pressure arc extends from the Atlantic over Tyrol all the way to Russia. The air masses are dry and are turning increasingly mild. The next weather perturbation will arrive on Thursday. Mountain weather today: a sunny, nearly cloudless day beckons. Winds will be light, temperatures are rising. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Light winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger continues to diminish

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe