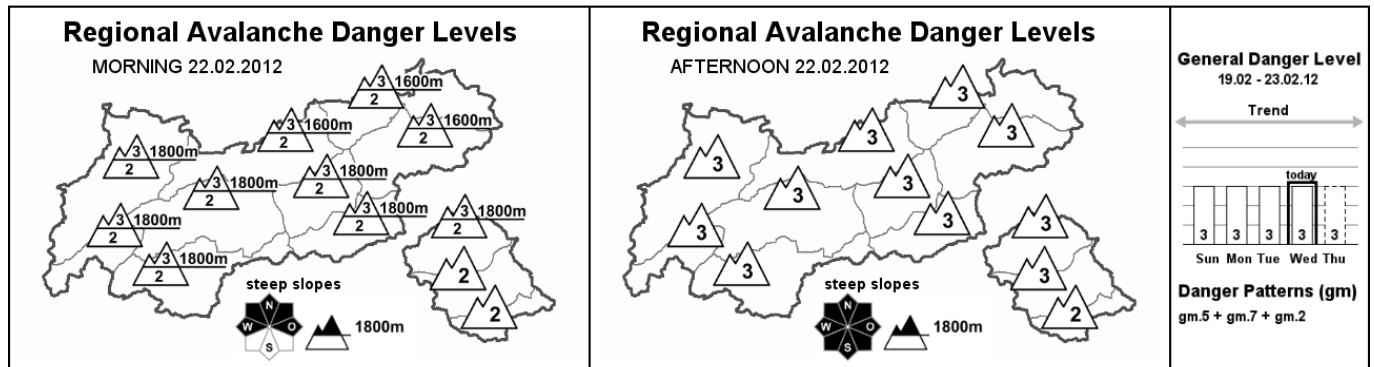


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 22.02.2012, at 07:30



Daytime rise in avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is still considerable above approximately 1800 m. The major peril continues to stem from the new fallen snow and snowdrift from last week, which is very poorly bonded with the layers lying immediately beneath them. An avalanche can be triggered by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Avalanche prone locations can be found primarily on steep slopes above approximately 1800 m in southwestern to northern to southeastern aspects. All in all, the frequency and spread of avalanche prone locations has continued to diminish over the last few days. During the course of the day today, the danger will escalate through the warming cycle and solar radiation; even naturally triggered avalanches can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack has settled well, it is solid and stable. The structure of the uppermost layers is less favourable: fresh fallen and drifted snow from last week have often been deposited atop a loosely packed, faceted snowpack. The proneness to triggering of this combination is still quite high. Whumpfung sounds are indicators of imminent avalanche danger and have dramatically demonstrated the hazard again and again in recent days.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A high pressure system hovers like an arc from the Bay of Biscay over central Europe as far as the Black Sea and dominates the weather conditions in the Alps. Between Thursday and Friday, a significantly milder air mass will reach us from the west. Mountain weather today: sunny and excellent visibility from the Arlberg to Pass Thurn and from the Zugspitze to the Dolomites. In addition, it is not cold at high altitude. The freezing level will ascend towards 2000 m by midday. At high altitudes, easterly winds can be brisk, providing some disturbance. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 5 degrees. Light easterly winds, at high altitudes the wind will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is slowly receding

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe