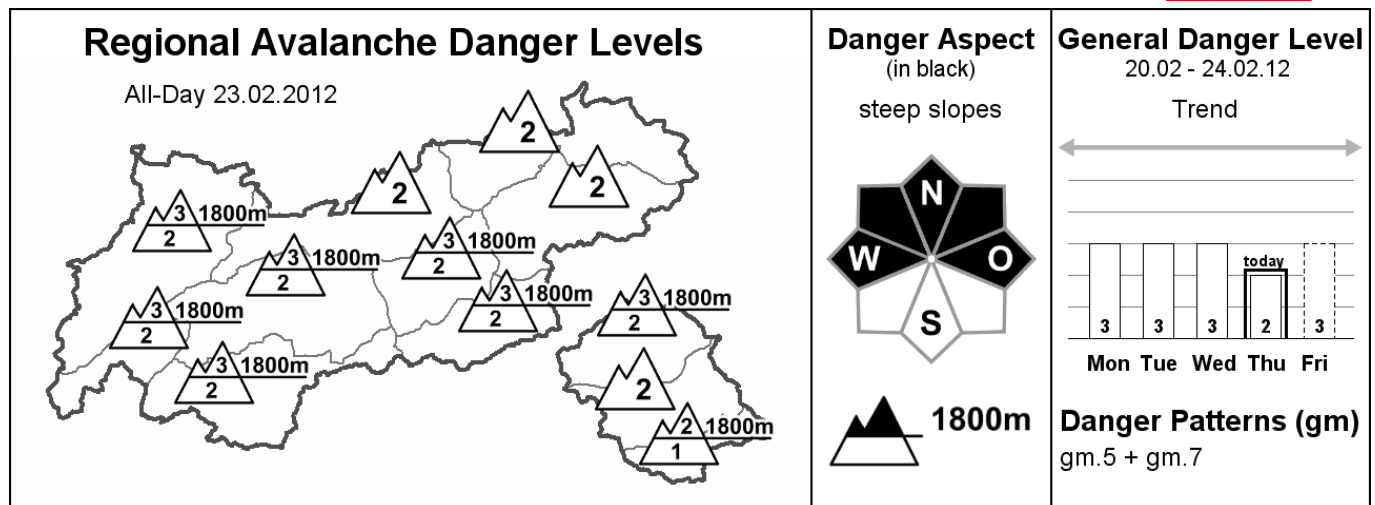


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 23.02.2012, at 07:30



Avalanche danger moderate; considerable in some regions above 1800 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tirol's backcountry touring regions has receded to moderate widespread; above approximately 1800 m, it is considerable from region to region. Snowdrift accumulations, more than anything else, can still be triggered by minimum additional loading in isolated cases. Since they are often covered over with new fallen snow, they are hardly discernible in open terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep, southwest to north to southeast facing slopes. Heightened caution is necessary in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, for example at the entrance points to heavily drifted gullies and bowls. The danger of naturally triggered avalanches has subsided somewhat. Below about 2400 m on east to south to west facing slopes, moist sluffs and full depth snowslides still require caution.

SNOW LAYERING

The temperatures, which are becoming increasingly springlike, together with the strong solar radiation, are causing increased avalanche activity, especially on sun-bathed slopes. Although the old snowpack is generally quite stable, the avalanches which have been triggered fracture down to deeply embedded layers, and then reach large size. The new and drifted snow from last week is still trigger sensitive, since it is often inadequately bonded with the loosely packed layers of snow immediately beneath.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The high pressure arc extending from the Bay of Biscay to the Black Sea is being replaced in its eastern sector by a northwesterly air current. The edges of a weak warm front will brush western Austria for a short time. Mountain weather today: On the northern flank of the Alps, the sun will disappear behind dense cloudbanks this morning, and the northwesterly wind will intensify. To begin with, clouds will be above the summits; visibility will turn diffuse. Between afternoon and evening, partly foggy and a bit of snowfall from place to place above approximately 1500 m. From the Ortler to the Dolomites, it will be quite sunny, but this afternoon turn cloudy at high altitude. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. In the Northern Alps and generally in high alpine ridgeline areas, strong northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Danger of dry avalanches is diminishing. Significantly escalating danger of moist snow avalanches on Friday.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe