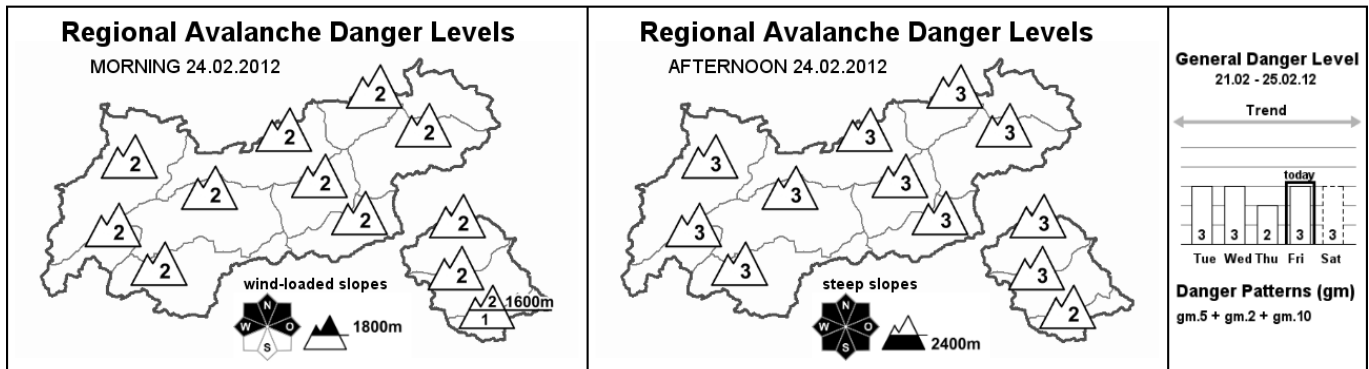


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 24.02.2012, at 07:30



Daytime escalation of avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Today for the first time, springlike conditions prevail in Tirol's backcountry touring regions. That means avalanche danger is subject to a daytime warming cycle: in the early morning, the danger level is moderate widespread, but escalates swiftly to considerable as of late morning. Danger zones for dry avalanches are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing snowdrifted slopes above approximately 1800 m. Older snowdrift accumulations from last week can still be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Intense solar radiation and daytime warming will make that danger rapidly increase. Below about 2400 m, naturally triggered moist sluffs can be expected with increasing frequency, as can small to medium sized wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides. In isolated cases, exposed sections of transportation routes can be placed at risk.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has gradually consolidated under the influence of the springlike temperatures and increasingly intense solar radiation during the day; and outgoing radiation during the night. However, the trigger sensitive uppermost layers of the snowpack still require great caution. This dangerous structure has been corroborated by numerous avalanches in the last few days. They are becoming less frequent, but can still be triggered with relative ease.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A high over France with very mild Atlantic air masses will dominate Tirol's weather today. On Saturday, the high will be pushed westwards by a northwesterly current. On Sunday, a northerly airstream will dominate, it will turn colder and some snowfall and rain on the northern flank of the Alps are expected. Mountain weather today: Sunny and mild mountain weather will very soon appear on the northern flank of the Alps. On the southern flank, and to start with also on the Main Alpine Ridge, clouds will persist at summit level. Extremely mild, with the freezing level rising briefly to 3000 m in all regions. Due to the daytime warming, it is urgently advised to heed the avalanche report! Temperature at 2000 m: rising to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: zero degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds, in the eastern Lower Inn Valley and in the Tauern zone, winds will be brisk to strong in velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Again: rising avalanche danger during the day

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe