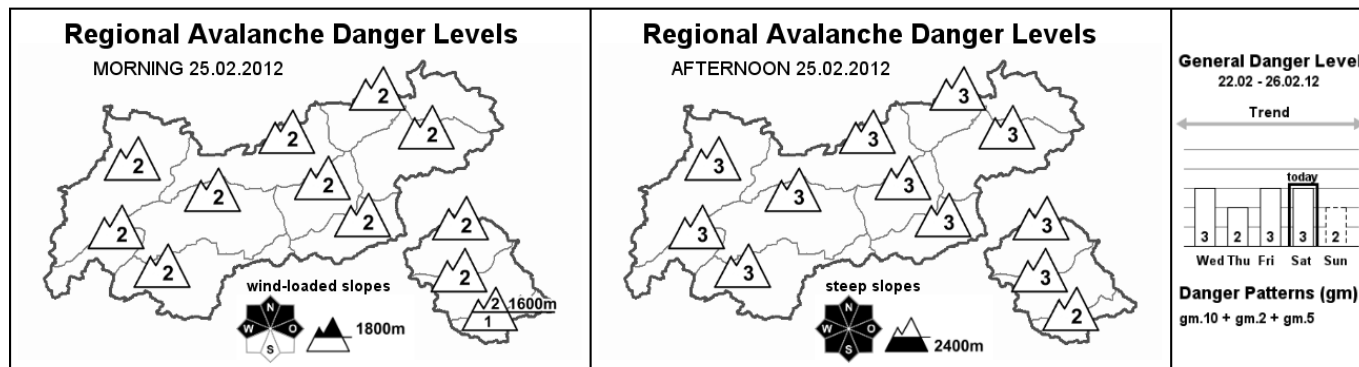


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 25.02.2012, at 07:30



Daytime rise in avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is subject to a daytime warming cycle. During the morning hours the danger level is generally moderate. As of late morning, it will rise to considerable widespread. The danger zones for dry avalanches are still to be found on steep slopes above approximately 1800 m in western to northern to eastern aspects. More than anything else, the snowdrift accumulations which formed last week can still be triggered by minimum additional loading. Below about 2400 m, increasingly frequent moist sluffs, wet snow avalanches and full depth snowlides can be expected to trigger naturally over the course of the day today. These can even reach large size and endanger exposed sections of transportation routes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack surface is moist up to high altitudes on sunny slopes. Due to outgoing nocturnal radiation, a melt freeze crust has often formed. On shady slopes in wind protected zones there is still dry powder snow. In wind exposed areas, the surface is often hard compressed by wind. The snowpack has settled quite well, all in all; with the exception of the uppermost layers, it is solid and stable. Through solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle, however, it loses its firmness during the course of the day. This was amply demonstrated yesterday by numerous naturally triggered avalanches as of midday.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The high pressure system over Tirol is weakening, a cold front will reach the Northern Alps from the north today and sweep over Tirol during the night tonight, bringing snow, rain and lower temperatures. On Sunday, intermittent showers and cooler, with northerly winds; in South and East Tirol, pleasant conditions. Mountain weather today: quite sunny from the Main Alpine Ridge west of the Brenner as far as the Arlberg, in the Lechtal Alps and on the southern flank of the Alps. From the Wetterstein to the Kutzbühel Alps and in the Tauern, often heavily overcast and a bit of snowfall. Tonight from the north, flurries are anticipated, bringing 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow. Temperature at 2000 m: dropping to minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Brisk northwesterly winds, in the Lower Inn Valley and Tauern, winds will be strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will diminish incrementally

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe