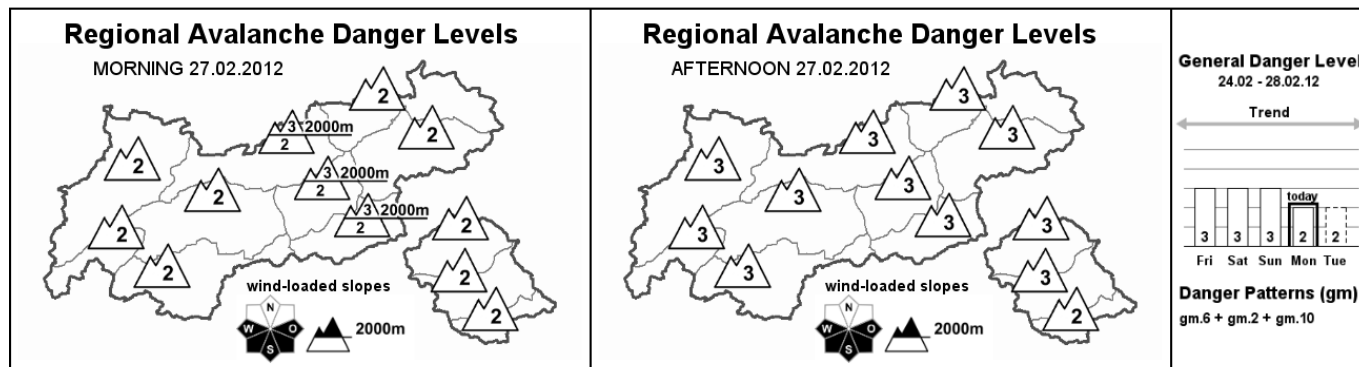


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 27.02.2012, at 07:30



Daytime rise in avalanche danger - Numerous loose-snow avalanches on sunny slopes!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is subject to a daytime warming cycle. During the morning, the danger level is moderate. As of midday, the danger level will rise to considerable due to solar radiation. As of that time, numerous loosely packed avalanches can be expected on extremely steep, sunny slopes. In isolated cases, small slab avalanches can be naturally triggered in very steep, west to south to east facing ridgeline areas. Such avalanches will not advance very far. In addition, increasingly frequent full depth snowslides can be expected on steep, grassy slopes. Areas below so-called glide cracks in the snowpack should be ongoingly avoided. The situation in the regions which have had the heaviest snowfall is less favourable: above approximately 2000 m, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations on very steep, wind protected slopes demand caution.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been snowfall far and wide in Tirol. Most of it fell in the Northern, Zillertal and Tux Alps, 30 to 50 cm. Elsewhere it generally snowed between 5 and 25 cm; southern East Tirol got none. The snowfall was accompanied by strong winds which brought about transport. The snowdrift is generally well bonded with the old snowpack. Triggering it is possible where there is loosely packed snow bordering the fresh fallen snow inside the snowpack. The old snowpack is now generally wet at lower and intermediate altitudes; at high altitudes it is well consolidated. A thin melt-freeze crust has formed inside the old snowpack in many places on sunny slopes which has now been covered over by new fallen snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: From the Atlantic, a high pressure system is pushing towards Tirol, but cannot dominate conditions today or tomorrow, since it is still overpowered by the northerly air current in which a variety of fronts are embedded, bringing much milder air masses our way. As of Wednesday, the high will gain in dominance and bring conditions to melt the snow. Mountain weather today: Brisk to strong winds persist, especially in high alpine regions and near ridgelines. Visibility will improve during the day, some sunshine is expected, particularly between the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge and the Lechtal Alps. The Lower Inn Valley will have the poorest visibility. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be generally sunny, but very windy. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Brisk to strong northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Continuing danger of full depth snowslides, particularly at low and intermediate altitudes

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe