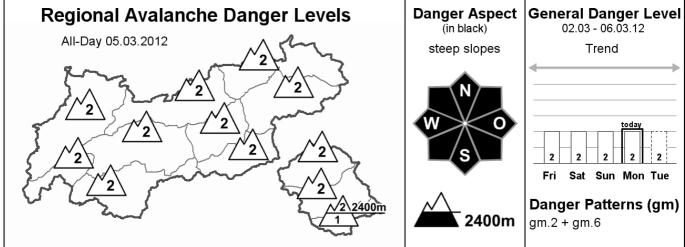
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Monday, 05.03.2012, at 07:30





Full depth snowslide danger at low and intermediate altitudes

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is moderate widespread. Below about 2400 m, caution is still urged towards naturally triggered full depth snowslides and wet sluffs. Due to the extraordinary snow depths, these slides can even reach large size. As temperatures drop, this hazard will decrease somewhat. Above approximately 2400 m, special caution is urged towards freshly drifted snow. Avalanches can generally be triggered only through large additional loading This peril will recede somewhat over the course of the day, as the snowfall continues.

SNOW LAYERING

Due to the cloudbanks which have moved in, outgoing nocturnal radiation of the snowpack was reduced; thus, no melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads could form. The snowpack on sunny slopes up to about 2400 m, on shady slopes up to about 1600 m, is thoroughly wet. In addition, there was some rainfall last night up to altitudes between 800 and 1400 m. The descending temperatures today will exercise a positive effect on avalanche hazards, since they will help consolidate the snowpack. In high alpine regions 15 cm of new fallen snow, along the Main Alpine Ridge as much as 30 cm of fresh fallen snow, is expected. New, relatively small snowdrift accumulations will form; their frequency and spread will increase during the course of the day.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The cold front of a low pressure system centered over the Benelux countries will traverse Tirol today. A partial low is now forming over Italy which will bring precipitation to the southern flank of the Alps. On Tuesday, weather conditions will improve. On Wednesday, an intermediate high is expected. Mountain weather today: the peaks on both sides of the Main Alpine Ridge are shrouded in cloud and fog. It is already snowing and the snowfall level will continue to descend, bringing new fallen snow to below 1000 m by this afternoon. At higher altitudes, 5 to 15 cm of snowfall is anticipated, along the Main Alpine Ridge as much as 30 cm. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees and falling; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees and falling. Moderate westerly winds at high altitudes; in the Northern Alps winds will be brisk.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is slowly receding

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe

