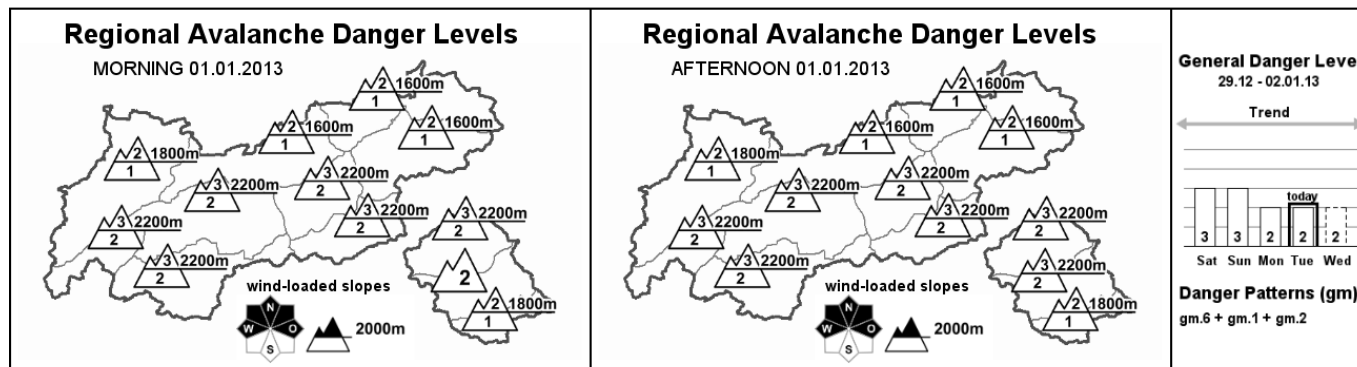


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 01.01.2013, at 07:30



Beware fresh snow drift near ridge lines - Caution on steep, shady slopes above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude and is expected to increase somewhat in wind-exposed areas over the course of the day. The situation is least favourable in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, the northern Stubai Alps and in the Tux Alps. The hazards above 2200 m there are considerable, due to the poor snow layering on west to north to east facing slopes, and increasingly so on north facing slopes. In places where the snow is shallow or transition areas from shallow to deep snow, slab avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. This usually applies to steep terrain only. Avalanches can reach medium size. In Tirol's remaining regions, the danger above the tree line is moderate; in all regions the danger below the tree line is low. Increased caution is urged above the tree line throughout Tirol towards freshly drifted snow masses behind crested rims in the terrain, most frequently on northwest to north to east facing slopes. Full depth snowslides are still possible only in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover at low and intermediate altitudes is generally well structured and low in tensions. Above approximately 2200 m, weak layers near the ground contain depth hoar and faceted snow crystals on west to north to east facing slopes, especially in the regions south of a line from Ausserfern over the Northern Alps to the Kitzbühel Alps. In high alpine regions, in addition, wind crusts often cover a layer of depth hoar which is trigger sensitive. During the course of the day, snow drift accumulations are expected to form afresh which are prone to triggering at the point of contact with the predominantly loosely packed, powdery snow beneath it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol is in a southwesterly air current at the southern rim of a powerful low pressure system whose center is over the North Sea. On Tuesday night, a weather perturbation will pass through, in the wake of which the airstream will shift to northwesterly to westerly. Mountain weather today: quite sunny to begin with, with high altitude cloud and brisk winds. This afternoon, cloud will move in from the west and temperatures begin to drop. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Moderate to brisk southwesterly winds, strong on foehn-exposed mountains.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

At higher altitudes, new snow drift accumulations prone to triggering will form.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe