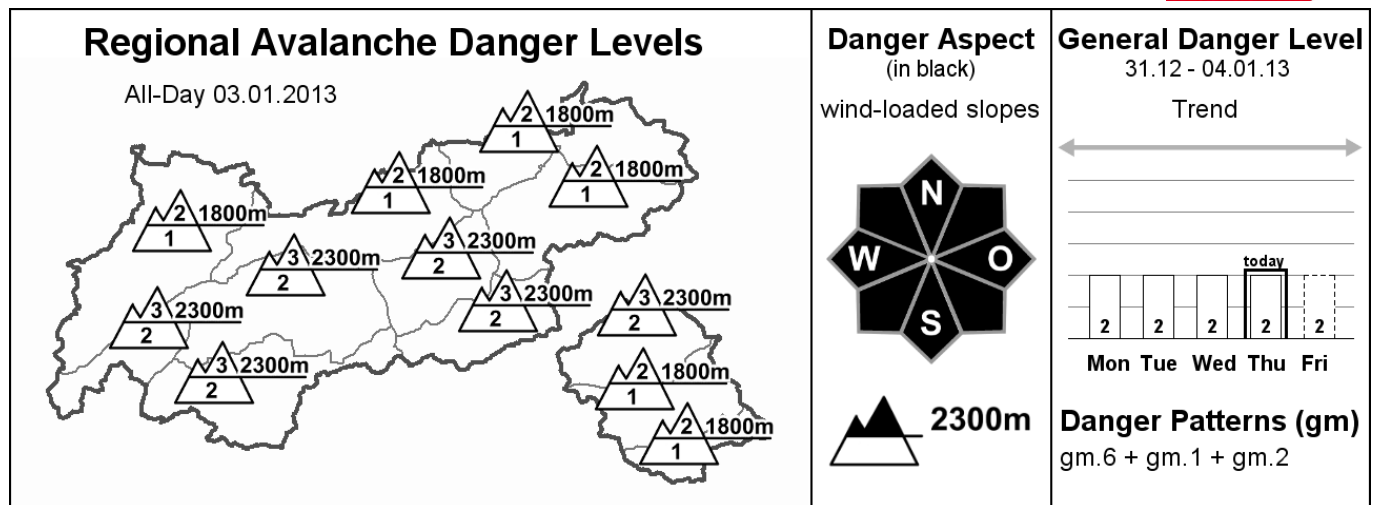


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 03.01.2013, at 07:30



Still considerable avalanche danger regionally above approximately 2300 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Far and wide in Tirol, quite favourable conditions prevail. The danger above the tree line is generally moderate, below that altitude it is low. Only in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, in the northern Ötztal, Stubai and Tux Alps is the peril above approximately 2300 m still considerable. Winter sports lovers can easily trigger a slab avalanche, even by minimum additional loading, on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, especially in areas between 2300 and 2800 m where the snow is shallow. Avalanches can reach medium size and in isolated cases also be triggered in terrain which is not steep. In high alpine regions and areas adjacent to ridge lines above the tree line, in addition, caution is urged towards small sized snow drift accumulations in steep terrain. The danger of full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes has subsided.

SNOW LAYERING

The warm month of December with massive thawing had a beneficial impact on the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes. It is stable and low in tensions. The snow cover in the zones south of a line drawn from Ausserfern over the Northern to the Kitzbühel Alps is less favourable: near the ground there is still a layer of depth hoar or faceted snow crystals surrounded by rain or melt-freeze crusts. The bonding of these snow types is poor, the snowpack is thus trigger sensitive. This applies particularly to the zones between 2300 and 2800 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes. Elsewhere on shady slopes, especially above approximately 2400 m, there are intermittent nests of depth hoar which could prove hazardous.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: the earlier you begin your tour, the more sunshine you will enjoy and the better the visibility will be on the northern flank of the Alps. By midday, the light will be diffuse, light snowfall is anticipated along the Northern Alps this afternoon. The southern flank of the Alps will remain favoured, the sun will persist for longer. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 to minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 9 to minus 5 degrees. Moderate, intensely gusty northwesterly winds. Weather in general: Wedged between a high over the Bay of Biscay and a low over Scandinavia, the Alps are caught in a northwesterly air current. Today a weak warm front will reach us. On Friday and Saturday, northern barrier weather can be expected.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche danger yet.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe