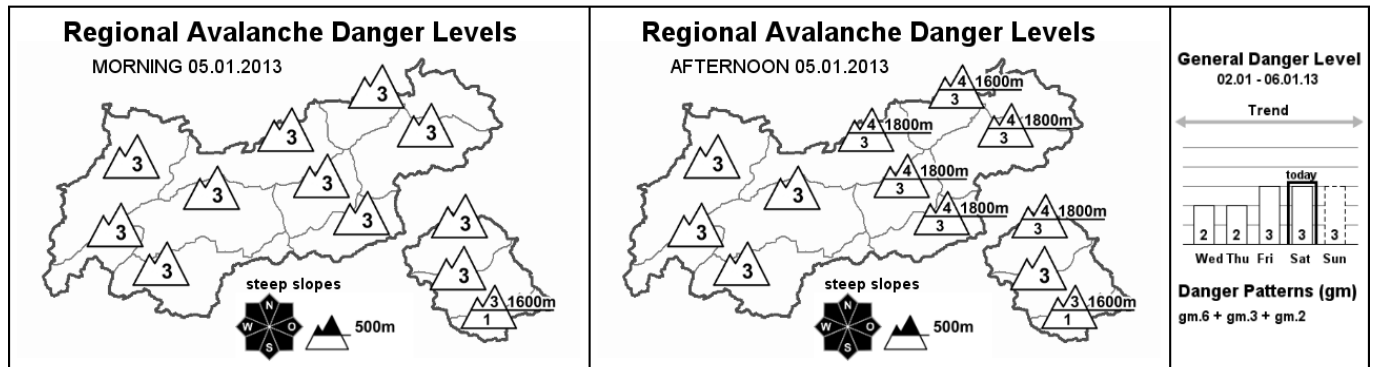


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 05.01.2013, at 07:30



In eastern regions at least as of this afternoon: high avalanche danger!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in the eastern regions in particular, due to heavy precipitation and storm strength winds, has increased: in the eastern part of the Kitzbühel Alps and the eastern sector of the Northern Alps above approximately 1800 m, it is high. In remaining Tirol, the danger level is considerable. However the danger level in the Northern, Tux and Zillertal Alps as well as in the northern Prealps of the East Tirolean Tauern will increase to high above the tree line during the course of the day. Frequent naturally triggered avalanches are expected, especially in areas adjacent to ridge lines on very steep, east to south to southwest facing slopes. Avalanches can also be naturally triggered when the burden on the snow cover reaches critical level, in the Tux and Zillertal Alps and in the northern sector of East Tirol, especially above 2300 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes. Avalanches can attain medium size today, in isolated cases also large size. In the zones impacted by rainfall where the snow is deep, full depth snowslides are possible on steep, grassy slopes, wet sluffs over craggy terrain. All in all, with the exception of southern East Tirol - where freshly drifted snow masses require great caution - highly unfavourable conditions prevail for backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, which demand a high degree of restraint.

SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday there has been heavy rainfall far and wide in Tirol, in many cases up to 2000 m. The rainfall level currently is at 1500 m, in the easternmost regions somewhat lower. The snow cover has become thoroughly wet or at least moist. Above the tree line, storm winds are currently raging, leading to wide ranging snow transport, particularly in eastern regions. Slab avalanches can frequently fracture above approximately 2000 at the point of contact between the previous snowpack and the freshly formed snowdrift masses. A prevalent bed surface is evident particularly above approximately 2300 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes: a layer of depth hoar.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The Alps are wedged between cool air masses coming from northeastern Europe and mild air masses over southwestern Europe, in the grip of a very moist northwesterly air current. The precipitation in the barrier zones of the northern flank of the Alps is heavy and will extend over the ridges to East Tirol. Relatively mild. Mountain weather today: The focus will slowly move from the Lower Inn Valley westwards, the snowfall level will drop in eastern regions slowly down to 1200 to 900 m. Northerly foehn winds will favour the southern Limestone Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Strong northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The danger will recede.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe