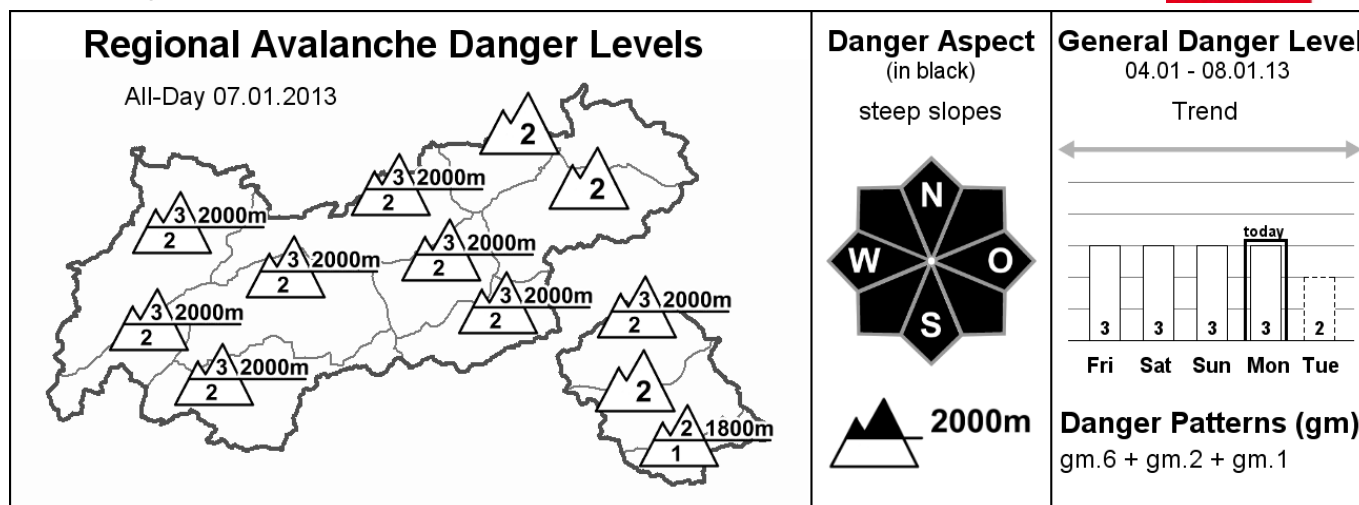


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 07.01.2013, at 07:30



Still high avalanche danger regionally above 2000 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has receded somewhat, but is still considerable from region to region above approximately 2000 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed and older snow drift accumulations. The point of contact between snow drift and loosely packed new fallen snow is the critical borderline at which avalanches can be triggered with relative ease. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, the frequency and size of the danger zones tending to increase with ascending altitude. Transition areas from shallow to deep snow should be assessed very critically: a slab avalanche can release even through minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single person. Due to the persistently mild temperatures, naturally triggered full depth snowslides can still be expected below about 2400 m.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been only a small amount of snowfall from place to place. The high altitude northwesterly winds were strong particularly in high alpine regions, bringing about newly formed snow drift accumulations which are often poorly bonded to the loosely packed fresh fallen snow beneath, making them trigger sensitive. The snow cover has been heavily impacted by the wind far and wide. The weak snow layering in the inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge demands special caution: above approximately 2200 m the fundament is frequently composed of faceted, unbonded snow crystals. In the remaining regions the structuring is better, making the snow cover more stable.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The Alps are still in the path of a concentrated northerly air current into which somewhat drier air masses will temporarily flow today. Over the course of the day tomorrow, Tuesday, the air masses will again become moist from the north. Mountain weather today: The peaks between Wilder Kaiser, the Kitzbühel Alps and the Hohe Tauern still have poor visibility due to fog and light snowfall until this afternoon, amidst strong winds in exposed terrain. In the remaining mountain ranges, good visibility accompanied by a few cirrus clouds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Ongoing strong northerly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The danger will continue to subside.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe