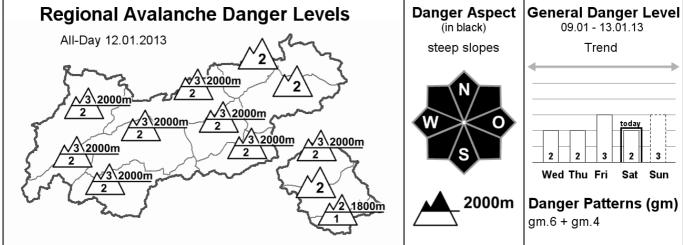
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Saturday, 12.01.2013, at 07:30





Considerable avalanche danger from region to region

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is judged to be at danger level 3, considerable, from region to region. The major peril stems from freshly formed snow drift accumulations which are inadequately bonded to the new fallen snow which lies beneath them and the old snowpack beneath that. Thus, avalanches can be triggered with relative ease, even the weight of a single person is sufficient. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects as well as in the drifted gullies and bowls. The frequency and spread of these danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain demand experience in assessing the avalanche hazards.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there was an additional 10 to 20 cm of snowfall in the Arlberg/Ausserfern region, the Silvretta, along the Northern Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge. Northwesterly winds were sufficiently strong for transport purposes, leading to wide ranging drifting of the fresh fallen snow. Both new fallen and drifted snow, particularly in high alpine regions, blanket a loosely packed old snow cover and are poorly bonded to it, making the proneness to triggering high. In addition, the unfavourable snow layering in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge demands special caution: above approximately 2200 m the fundament is frequently faceted, composed of unbonded snow crystals.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure front hovers over Poland and a northwesterly air current is temporarily bringing drier air masses to Tirol. On Monday a low will form over northern Italy and the air will become moist again. Mountain weather today: The peaks will be shrouded in cloud and fog to begin with, a bit of snowfall is anticipated. The snow showers will then taper off from the west, visibility will improve and it will turn quite sunny in the western mountain ranges. In the Southern Alps, sunshine from the start today. Cold. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Brisk westerly to northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will decrease only gradually

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe