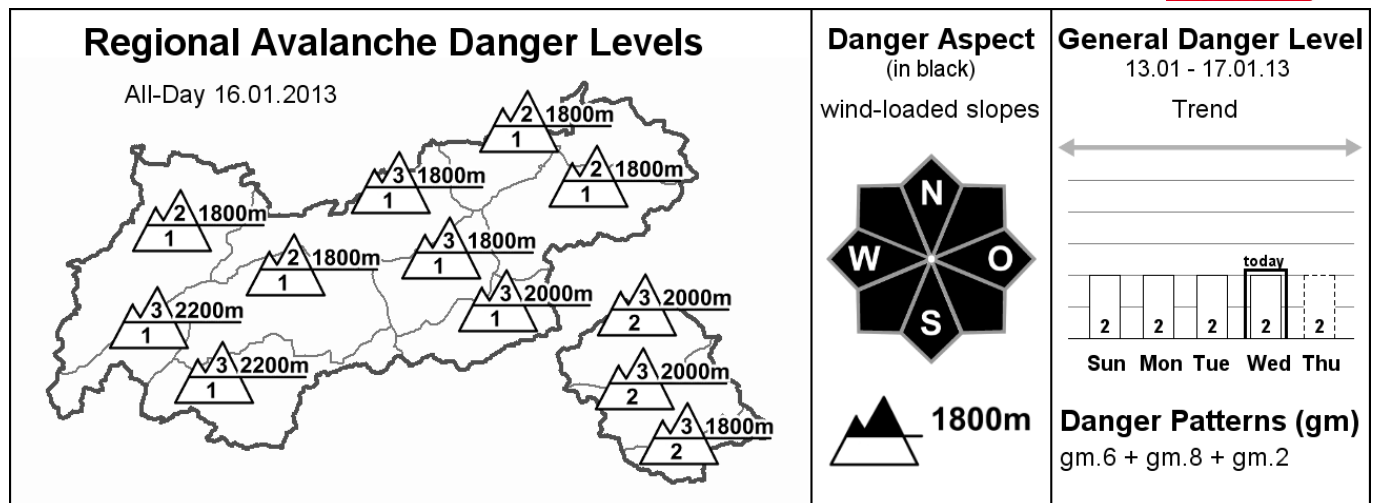


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 16.01.2013, at 07:30



### Fresh snowdrift accumulations highly prone to triggering!

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, the Tux Alps, the central sector of the western part of the Northern Alps and in East Tirol, considerable avalanche danger prevails above the tree line. Below that altitude the danger level is generally low. In remaining Tirol, the danger above the tree line is moderate, due to the sharp decrease in avalanche prone locations; below that altitude it is also low. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are highly prone to triggering. Since the wind has varied greatly in its impact over the last few days (generally it was light, but over small areas reached storm strength) the most important thing at the moment is to recognize where the wind has made an impact and to assiduously avoid snowdrift accumulations in steep terrain. Since snowfall is expected again today, the drifted masses which were recognizable until now will get blanketed over by new fallen snow. Further, slab avalanches can be triggered above approximately 2300 m in the inneralpine regions and in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes in isolated cases wherever the snow is shallow and in general through large additional loading. Isolated full depth snowslides are also possible on steep, grassy slopes.

#### SNOW LAYERING

There has again been snowfall in Tirol, heaviest in East Tirol (up to 15 cm) elsewhere generally only 5 cm. The wind varied enormously, it was strongest near Wipp Valley, the Tux Alps and in some parts of the Main Alpine Ridge, transporting large masses of fresh fallen, loosely packed powder snow which is now trigger sensitive. Near the tree line and just above it, the snowdrift has been deposited as surface hoar. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the inneralpine regions, in addition, there are weak layers of depth hoar near the ground which in isolated cases could release.

#### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Moderate snowfall - in East Tirol and on the Main Alpine Ridge it could be intermittently heavy - accompanied by cold and frequent fog will bring wintery conditions and poor visibility to Tirol's mountains on both flanks of the Main Alpine Ridge today. The snowfall will continue during the night tonight, bringing 20 to 40 cm of fresh fallen snow between Wednesday and Thursday morning, heaviest in the Zillertal Alps, Hohe Tauern and the Dolomites. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 degrees. Moderate westerly winds, tending to slacken off during the day, and shifting to southerly to southeasterly and ultimately to easterly. Weather in general: A powerful front of cold air extends from Scandinavia to southern Italy, delivering polar air masses to Tirol. A low over Italy will supply moist air to our southern regions in the form of snowfall. On Thursday, the transition to snowmelting conditions is anticipated; on Friday, an intermediate high.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Despite snowfall, no significant change. Conditions are good wherever there has been no wind; unfavourable wherever winds have been blowing.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe