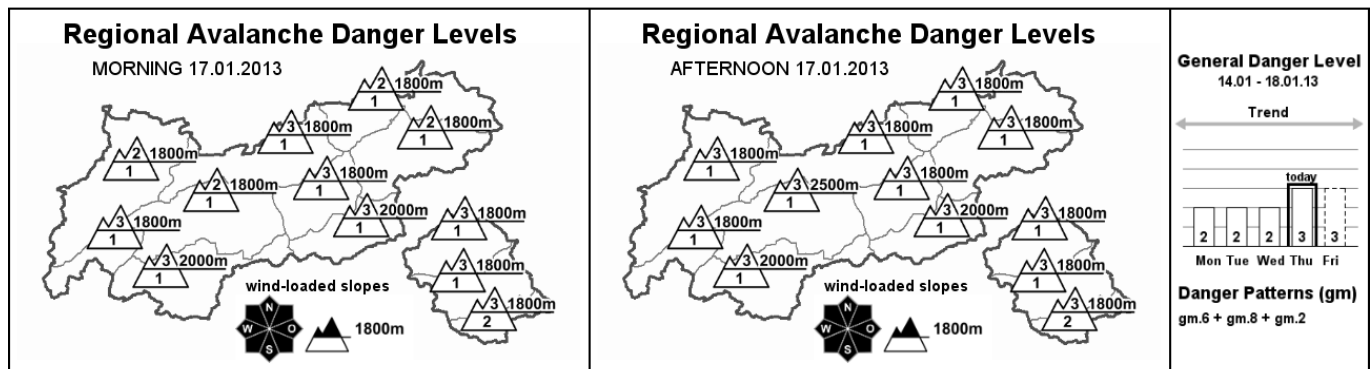


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 17.01.2013, at 07:30



Increasing avalanche danger as northeasterly wind intensifies

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger continues to be contingent on wind impact, which varies greatly from region to region. It has been windiest on the Main Alpine Ridge, in the Tux Alps, the central part of the western Northern Alps and in East Tirol in recent days. For that reason, considerable danger prevails there above the tree line. Today the wind is expected to intensify, especially in northern and eastern regions, which will heighten the avalanche danger. Below the tree line the danger is generally low, although great caution is required towards the local snowdrift. The major peril continues to stem from recently formed snowdrift accumulations, some of which have now been blanketed over with new fallen snow, making them hard to recognize. The drifted masses are highly prone to triggering! They are to be found in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects and in gullies and bowls, as well as behind terrain edges. With ascending altitude, they are more widespread. In very isolated cases in the inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge slab avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading in very steep terrain, especially between approximately 2300 m and 2800 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing transition areas from shallow to deep snow. Full depth snowslides are a threatening factor on steep, grassy slopes in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

Once again there has been snowfall in Tirol, mostly 5 to 20 cm, in southern East Tirol as much as 30 cm. There was little wind, although the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge faced strong winds. Due to the low temperatures, lightweight snow drift accumulations have formed where the wind was blowing which can be triggered at the point of contact with the loosely packed new fallen snow. Near the tree line the snowpack has surface hoar. Weak layers inside the old snowpack near the ground can be found particularly above approximately 2300 m in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge on shady, steep slopes, but they are unlikely to release.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: cold and continued snowfall on the northern flank of the Alps, accompanied by brisk winds. In the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge, much less snowfall, some bright intervals this afternoon. By Friday morning, 5 to 15 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated, most in the Kitzbühel Alps and Wilder Kaiser, least in the southern Ötztal Alps. The snowfall in East Tirol is practically over, conditions will improve this afternoon amidst northerly winds. Weather in general: The low over Italy will bring moist and cold air masses to North Tirol in a northeasterly current; in East Tirol, light northerly foehn wind. Tomorrow, the low will withdraw, an intermediate high will dominate. On Saturday, the current will shift to southwesterly, temperatures will rise.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation to begin with

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe