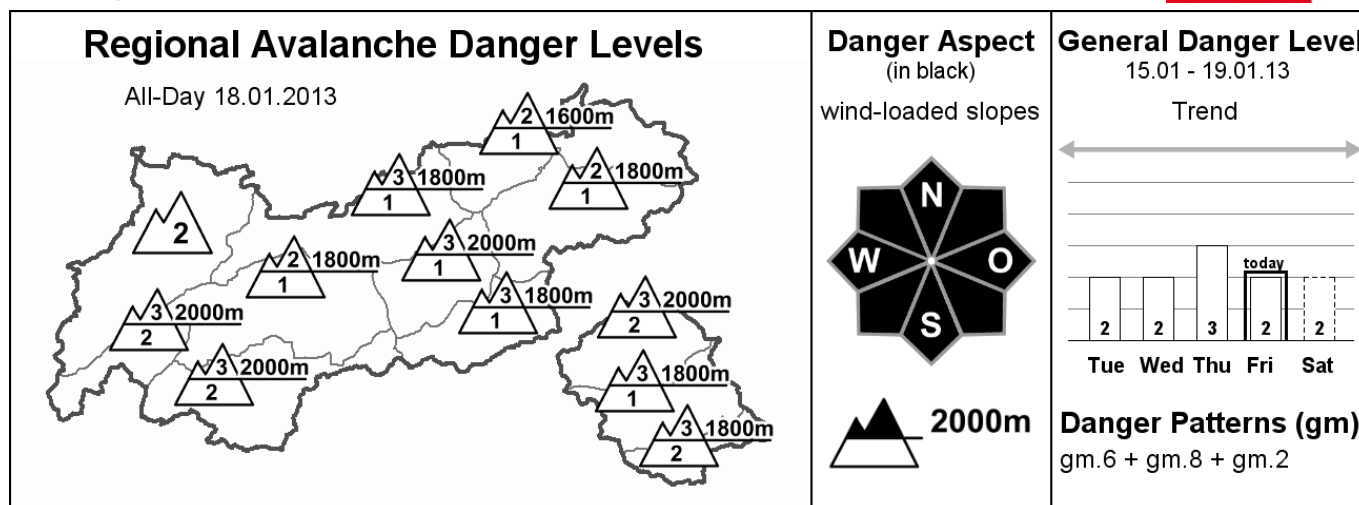


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 18.01.2013, at 07:30



### Beware fresh snowdrift and loosely packed avalanches

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2000 m the danger level is frequently considerable, below that altitude it is moderate in some places, in the regions where there has not been much snowfall it is low. The major peril still stems from recently formed snowdrift accumulations. Since the wind has been highly varied from region to region over the last few days, the drifted masses are distributed in extremely irregular fashion. In general, their frequency increases with ascending altitude. They are found especially above the tree line near ridgelines and behind terrain edges. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger these masses. Caution: drifted masses which formed on Tuesday have been blanketed over by new fallen snow, making them hard to spot. Further, in extremely steep, craggy terrain, loosely packed avalanches can be expected with frequency today. This applies to sunny slopes. In isolated cases, full depth snowslides can release on steep, grassy slopes at low and intermediate altitudes, particularly where glide cracks appear in the snow cover.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Superb powder but treacherous snowdrift at high altitudes characterize the snowpack. The snowdrift can be easily triggered at the point of contact to the cold, loosely packed powder. The old snowpack is generally quite compact, except in isolated cases on very steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 2300 m, particularly in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge, where there are loose layers of depth hoar near the ground which can be triggered by large additional loading in places where the snow is shallow.

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

Mountain weather today: sunny but very wintery temperatures. The wind will remain light, the visibility will be excellent. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Light northeasterly winds. Weather in general: a low pressure front is rotating above the Adriatic Sea, it is expected to turn in a southeasterly direction during the day and leave the Alps. In its wake an intermediate high will then dominate, with residual moisture in some cloud layers.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation to begin with. The situation will deteriorate on Sunday as winds intensify.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe