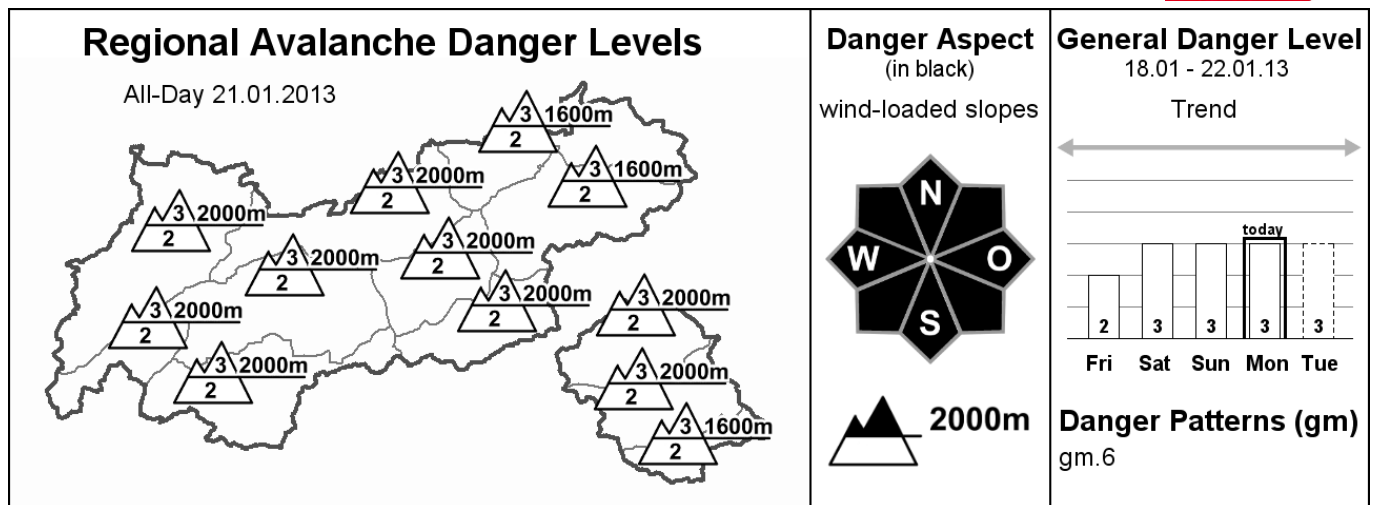


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 21.01.2013, at 07:30



Caution towards high alpine snowdrift accumulations!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is considerable widespread above approximately 2000 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed, quite trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects. The frequency and spread of the danger zones tends to increase with ascending altitude. Special caution is urged in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, where avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single person.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been additional snowfall along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tirol. The strong southerly to southwesterly winds have massively transported the new fallen snow. The snowdrift accumulations which were thereby formed have been deposited for the most part on top of loosely packed fresh fallen snow and are thus prone to triggering. The surface of the snowpack has frequently been heavily impacted by wind and is highly irregular, i.e. compacted or windblown spots lie right next to deeply drifted terrain. At low and intermediate altitudes, yesterday's higher temperatures have led to the snowpack settling and slightly consolidating.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The narrow low pressure zone which brought us foehn weather conditions yesterday is traversing Tirol today. A cold front will bring colder air masses to start with, then light (and later on, moderate) snowfall down to low lying areas will follow. Mountain weather today: Frequent fog, only minimum chance of sunshine, poor visibility in general and repeated light snowfall. This afternoon the snowfall will intensify, probably heaviest in the Hohe Tauern with about 15 cm of fresh fallen snow by tomorrow morning. In the Ötztal Alps there will be sunshine. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Light southerly winds to start with, shifting to moderate velocity westerly winds later on.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will gradually decrease

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe