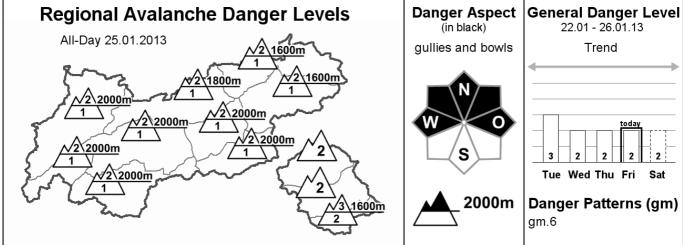
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Friday, 25.01.2013, at 07:30





Mostly favourable touring conditions, moderate avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tirol's backcountry touring regions, predominantly favourable conditions prevail amidst moderate danger of avalanches. The major peril stems from freshly formed snow drift which has accumulated repeatedly over the course of the week. These drifted masses are relatively small sized, but they have often been deposited on top of loosely packed old snowpack surfaces, which makes it rather easy to trigger them. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in drifted gullies and bowls as well as in terrain adjacent to ridgelines above approximately 2000 m. Furthermore, transition areas from deep to shallow snow should be evaluated with great care, since isolated avalanches can be triggered in those areas even by minimum additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night there was a small amount of snowfall, mostly along the Northern Alps. The snowpack up to about 2000 m has settled well and is stable by and large. In high alpine regions, snowdrift has accumulated in small masses again and again over the course of the week, and is frequently deposited atop a loosely packed old snow cover, making it prone to triggering. The snowpack surface is heavily impacted by wind. Windblown or hardened surfaces are often right next to deeply drifted gullies and bowls. In wind protected places, melt-freeze crusts are just as prevalent as loosely packed powder.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure system over Italy is drawing a northeasterly current across the Alps; in its lowermost layers, moist and cold air masses are lodging against the northern flank of the Alps. As Saturday approaches, the air masses will become drier. Mountain weather today: The mountain ranges along the northern limestone Alps as far as the Kitzbühel Alps will remain hidden in cloud for the most part, a bit of snowfall is also possible. The uppermost borderline of the cloud is 2500 m. Between Paznaun, Samnaun and the southern Ötztal Alps, sunny intervals are anticipated, also on the southern flank of the Alps, accompanied by northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 13 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Mostly moderate avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe