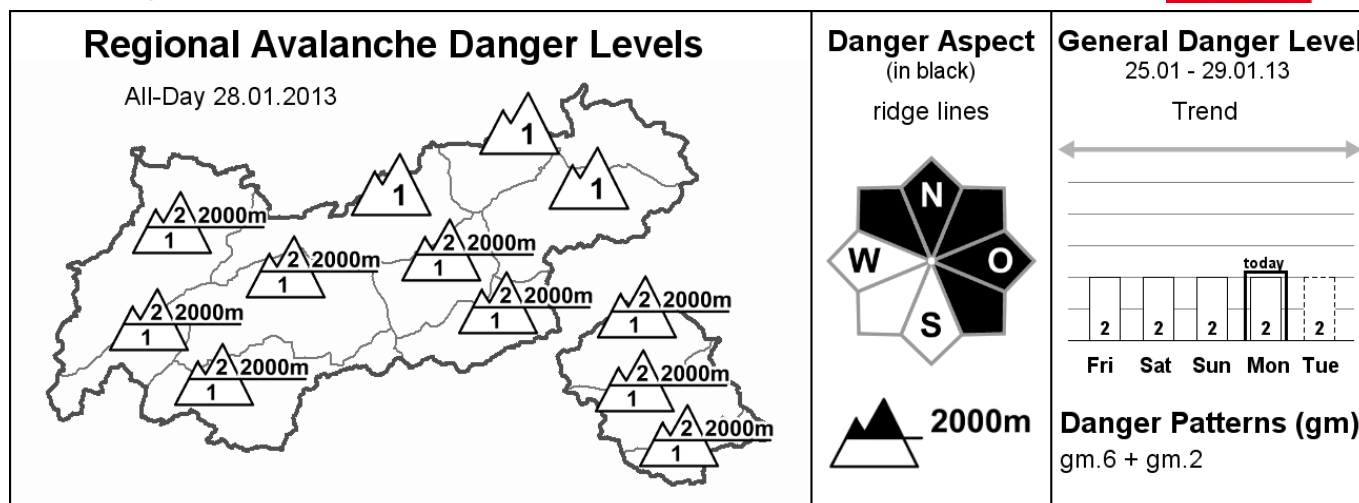


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 28.01.2013, at 07:30



Caution towards small, fresh snowdrift near ridgelines

AVALANCHE DANGER

Predominantly favourable backcountry touring conditions prevail. The danger of avalanches above approximately 2000 m is moderate, below that altitude low; in northeastern regions it is low in general. The major peril currently stems from relatively small, fresh snowdrift masses near ridgelines on very steep slopes. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger avalanches there. Visibility permitting, these spots are easy to recognize. Furthermore, at low and intermediate altitudes, snowslides are a threat on steep, grassy slopes. Glide cracks in the snowcover are indicators of imminent danger of full depth snowslides, thus, great attention should be paid to avoid their vicinity. In the inneralpine regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, in addition, isolated slab avalanches are possible through large additional loading, particularly between 2300 and 2800 m on shady, very steep slopes where the snow is shallow.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover is generally stable. Slab avalanches are likeliest at the point of contact between fresh snowdrift and the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it. Significant weak layers are currently found in the inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge on shady slopes above approximately 2300 m. The snow quality is highly irregular: in wind protected, shady zones there is still powder snow in many places; on sunny slopes at low and intermediate altitudes, there are breakable crusts; in high alpine regions, frequent wind crusts.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: The peaks are shrouded in heavy cloud, this morning; light to moderate snowfall is anticipated. This afternoon, not much additional snowfall; some bright intervals mainly between the Lechtal Alps and the Arlberg. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds. Weather in general: a front system is traversing Tyrol, in the wake of which drier air masses will reach us by this afternoon. Tonight the westerly winds will intensify, bringing clouds from a warm front which will reach us tomorrow.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As winds intensify, increasing avalanche danger to begin with

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe