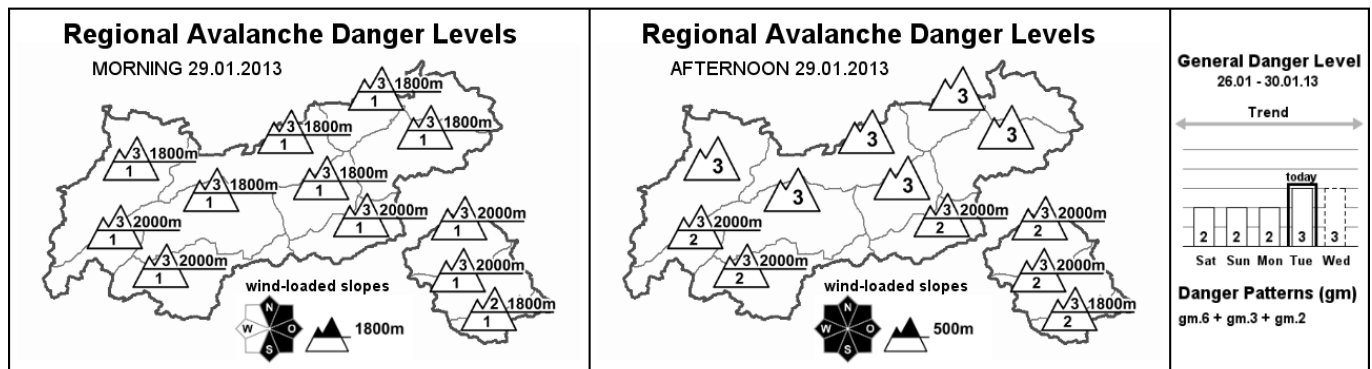


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 29.01.2013, at 07:30



Increasing avalanche danger amidst storm and precipitation

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger below the tree line can still be assessed as low this morning. Above that altitude in North Tirol it is already considerable, in southern East Tirol moderate. The danger level will rise over the course of the day, both in low and intermediate altitude terrain, where it will rain; and in southern East Tirol, where the wind will intensify during the day, thus forming new snowdrift accumulations. The major peril stems from fresh snowdrift masses above the tree line, which are frequently found on north to east to south facing slopes near ridgelines as well as in gullies and bowls. Drifted masses can be triggered even by minimum additional loading in steep terrain; over the course of the day they will also trigger naturally in isolated cases. At low and intermediate altitudes, wet slides are expected due to the rainfall. Also at these altitudes on steep, grass covered slopes, more frequent full depth snowslides are anticipated - announced by glide cracks in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

There was generally 5-10 cm of snowfall in North Tirol and northern East Tirol yesterday, along the Main Alpine Ridge at high altitude there was as much as 20 cm of new fallen snow from place to place. In the interim, winds have intensified noticeably, leading to new snowdrift accumulating which can be triggered at the point of contact to the old, loosely packed, cold powder snow beneath it. Weak layers inside the old snowpack are still evident near the ground in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge. In southern East Tirol the old snowpack beneath a thin melt-freeze crust there are faceted, unbonded snow crystals, especially on shady, steep slopes between 1800 and 2500 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: the higher peaks hidden in cloud, light snowfall this morning, snowfall level about 1000 m to start with, during the day significantly rising temperatures, raising the snowfall level to 1500 m. This evening, it will rain up to nearly 2000 m, with stormy winds in ridgeline areas. On the southern flank of the Alps, the summits will mostly be free of cloud, amidst diffuse light from higher clouds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 5 degrees. Strong to storm strength westerly winds. Weather in general: Tirol is caught in an increasingly stormy westerly current, a warm front is moving over Austria bringing milder air masses our way by tomorrow. Tomorrow, an intermediate high; in the evening a cold front will follow.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger widespread above the tree line

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe