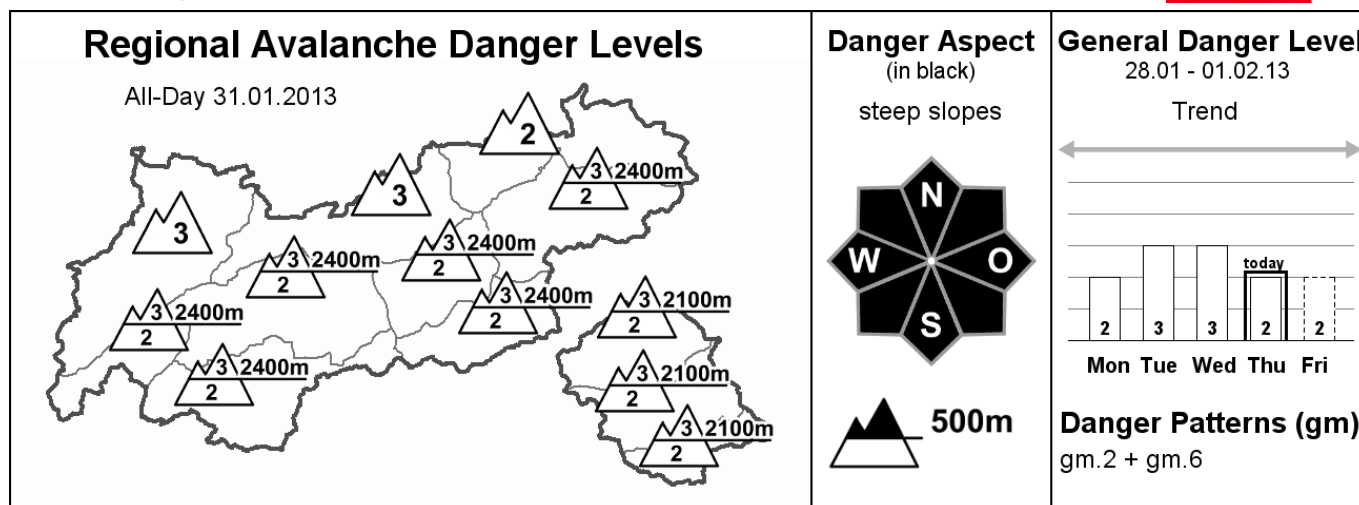


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 31.01.2013, at 07:30



Full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes, beware snowdrift above 2400 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions of the Arlberg, Ausserfern and western sector of the Northern Alps, considerable avalanche danger prevails; elsewhere the danger is moderate below about 2100-2400 m and considerable above that altitude. Below about 2400 m caution is urged towards full depth snowslides which can trigger on steep, grassy slopes, usually announcing their imminent release by glide cracks in the snow cover. Wet snowslides in craggy, usually sunny terrain are still possible, but will occur more seldom today than yesterday. In East Tirol, caution towards fresh snowdrift accumulations must start at a lower altitude (2100 m) than elsewhere (2400 m) due to the different snowfall levels there. The likelihood of triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude. Frequently the weight of one single person is sufficient to trigger fresh snowdrift as an avalanche in very steep terrain. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects, with frequency on north to east to southeast facing slopes. In southern East Tirol, in addition, on steep, shady slopes between about 1800 and 2300 m, slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack by large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has become even wetter at low and intermediate altitudes through the latest rainfall. The rainfall level varied from 2400 m in western sectors of North Tirol to about 1800 m in southern East Tirol. Due to the increasing wetness of the snow cover, the friction between snow crystals diminishes on steep, grassy slopes, making full depth snowslides more likely. The bonding of snowdrift to the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it is poor, particularly above 2300 m, and becomes poorer with ascending altitude.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: the storm continues. The peaks are free of cloud, giving us ample sunshine. This afternoon, cloud will slowly move in from the west, light become diffuse. Relatively mild. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Storm strength westerly to northwesterly winds. Weather in general: Tirol lies in the path of a stormy westerly airstream which will bring drier air masses our way today, but on Friday the next perturbation will follow in their wake. Over the weekend, a low pressure system will form over northern Italy and conditions will become wintery again.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation to begin with

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe