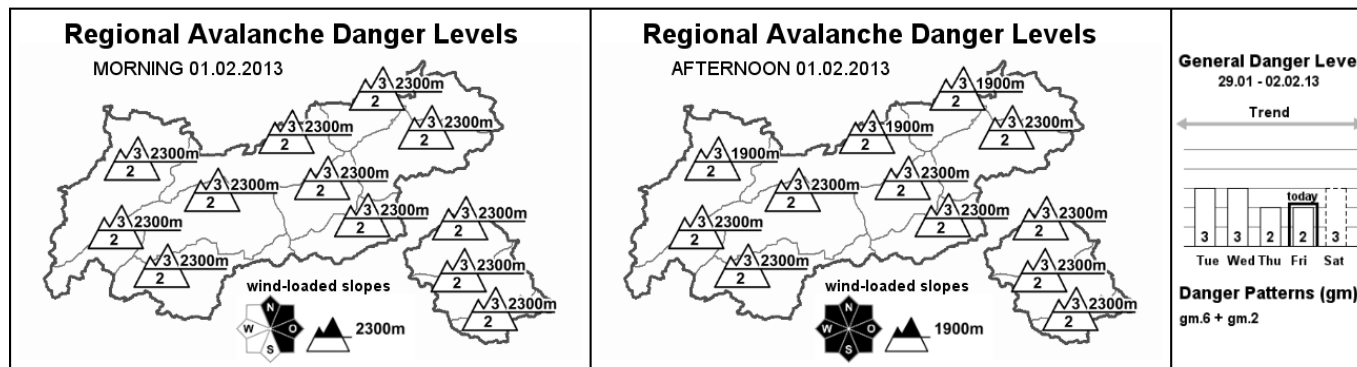


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 01.02.2013, at 07:30



Fresh snowdrift is the major peril above 2300 m, also below that altitude later on in western region

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2300 m, considerable danger in general, below that altitude the danger is moderate, below the tree line in the regions with least snow the danger level is low. Due to the already settled new fallen snow in the western and northern regions, together with the stormy winds, the borderline altitude where considerable danger changes to moderate is about 1900 m. The major peril stems from fresh snowdrift. The spread of the avalanche prone locations and their trigger sensitivity tend to increase with ascending altitude. The drifted masses from before yesterday afternoon can be triggered even by minimum additional loading above about 2300 m, the more freshly accumulated drifted masses even below that altitude. These occur frequently on north to east to southeast facing slopes. In isolated cases, slab avalanches can release by large additional loading in transition areas from shallow to deep snow on very steep, shady slopes above about 2300 m. In southern East Tirol, this applies to altitudes above about 2000 m. Furthermore, full depth snowslides can still release on steep, grassy slopes, the imminent danger usually announced by glide cracks in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

The rain from January 30 and 31 has left behind its traces in many parts of Tirol. In northern regions there is an ice crust extending up to 2200 m, sometimes up to 2500 m. The crust is hard, but breakable. On steep slopes that causes increased danger of falling. The old snowpack is otherwise well structured. More deeply embedded weak layers can be found on north facing slopes. In southern East Tirol there is a faceted layer beneath a crust above about 2000 m, in the inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge a layer near the ground (from autumn) above 2300 m which is a potential bed surface. But supreme caution must remain directed at the snowdrift. At its point of contact to the loosely packed recently fallen snow it is poorly bonded.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The strong westerly airstream persists, today bringing moist and mild air masses to North Tirol. In South and East Tirol skies are bright due to northerly winds. During the course of the day, cloud will move in, also in southern regions. On Saturday, temperatures will drop, precipitation and a cold front will arrive. Mountain weather today: inhospitable conditions in North Tirol, amidst stormy westerly winds, repeated snowfall which will be transported by the wind, poor visibility and no sunshine. In South and East Tirol, bright spells to begin with, becoming more overcast in the latter part of the day from the north. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Storm strength westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasing avalanche danger due to snowfall and wind

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe