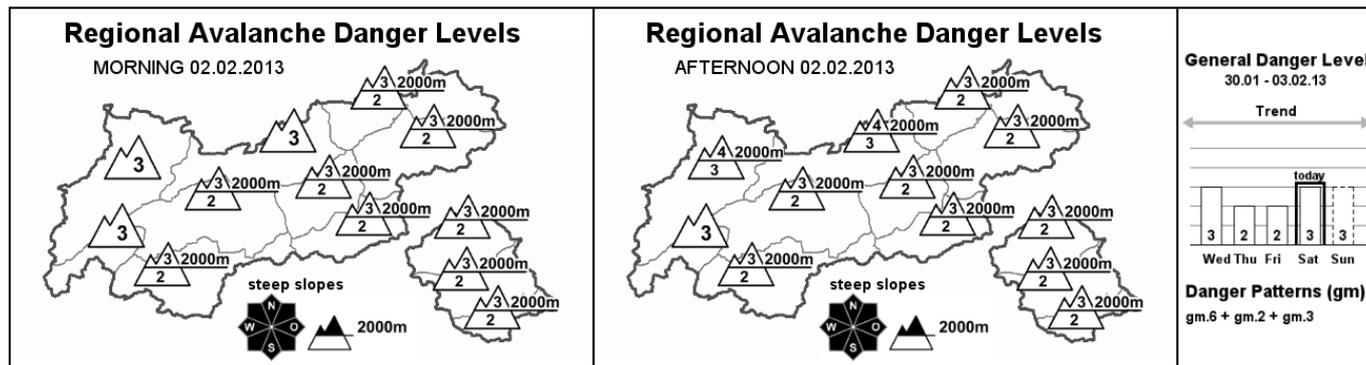


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 02.02.2013, at 07:30



Avalanche danger rising to high in NW regions above 2000 m as of evening

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in northwestern regions of North Tirol is considerable in general, elsewhere it is contingent on altitude and is expected to increase over the course of the day presumably to high (4) as a result of the heavy snowfall which is forecast for the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions as well as the westernmost sector of the Northern Alps. We expect in those regions, especially above 2000 m, frequent medium (in isolated cases also large sized) avalanches to fracture. Slab avalanches will release particularly on very steep, northeast to east to southwest facing slopes near ridgelines. We also expect some full depth snowslides in northwestern regions in particular on steep, grassy slopes due to the thoroughly wet snowpack. Backcountry skiers and freeriders should behave defensively above the tree line. Fresh snowdrift accumulations in very steep terrain can be easily triggered even by minimum additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

Once again it has rained heavily in Tirol, frequently up to 2000 m, and snowed above that altitude. Most of the snowfall occurred in northwestern regions, 20-30 cm. Elsewhere there was generally about 10 cm. Southern East Tirol remained without precipitation. Strong, to some extent stormy southwesterly winds are still blowing, today they will shift to northerly. Fresh snowdrift accumulations are poorly bonded to the new fallen snow beneath them, especially at higher altitudes. Inside the old snowpack, particularly in southern East Tirol from the tree line to about 2300 m on east to north to west facing slopes, are faceted snow crystals beneath the melt freeze crusts. Elsewhere in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge above about 2300 m there are weak, loosely packed layers of snow near the ground which, however, will probably release only in exceptional cases.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Although the stormy westerly winds will come to an end as the cold front traverses Tirol, conditions are expected to remain unpleasant. A moderate strength northerly wind continues to blow, with repeated snowfall, some of which is expected to be heavy. Furthermore, visibility is much impaired and temperatures have dropped about 10 degrees. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Moderate to strong high altitude northerly winds. Weather in general: the air pressure is sinking which will make precipitation continue. From the northwest a cold front will traverse the land today. In its wake a very cold northerly airstream will dominate, bringing strong northerly winds to East and South Tirol.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Critical conditions for backcountry tours above the tree line and where the precipitation is heaviest

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe