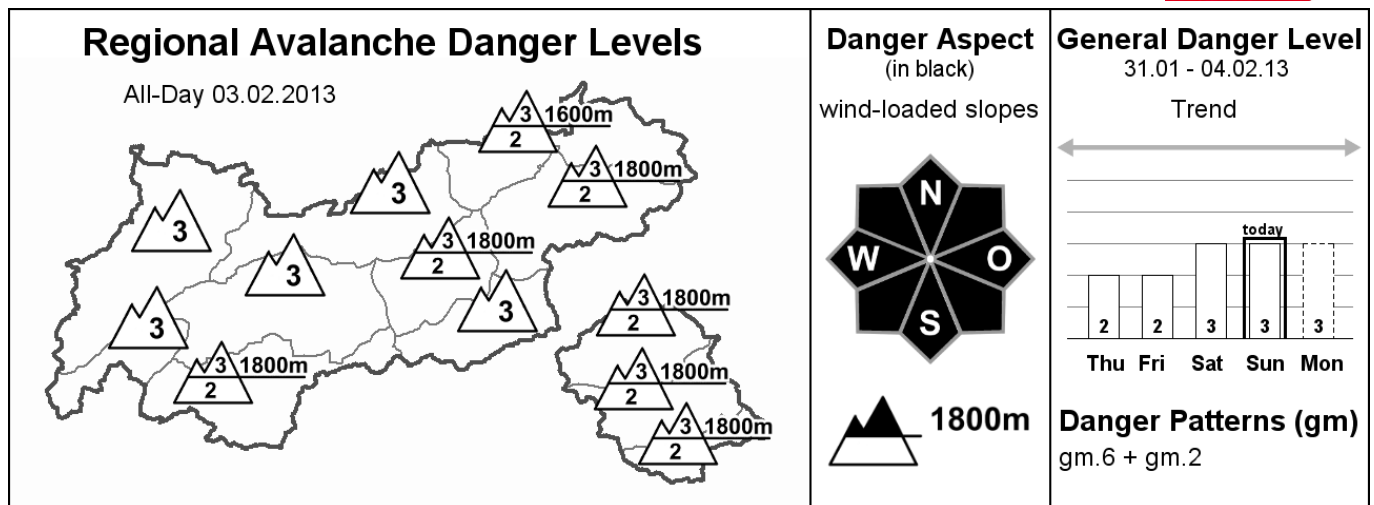


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 03.02.2013, at 07:30



Critical conditions for winter sports in regions with heaviest snowfall. Restraint urged!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Today, at least in many places of North Tirol, critical conditions reign for backcountry skiers and freeriders. The avalanche danger in the regions which had the heaviest snowfall is considerable in general, elsewhere above the tree line it is considerable, below that altitude moderate. The major peril stems from numerous freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which have formed above the tree line as a result of the strong winds and continue to do so. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger an avalanche in steep terrain. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects, frequently in NE to E to SW facing ridgeline areas. We strongly advise a high degree of caution and restraint in steep terrain. Wherever winds were light, conditions are better. Elsewhere, in the old snowpack in southern East Tirol between 1800 and 2300 m on south to north to east facing slopes slab avalanches can release where the snow is shallow. In very steep terrain, avalanches are possible there even with minimum additional loading. Full depth snowslides are still possible on steep, grassy slopes, generally announced by glide cracks appearing in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been heavy snowfall in Tirol, most of which fell in the Silvretta, on the Arlberg, in the Ausserfern, the western Northern Alps, the Zillertal Alps and the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, 30-40 cm. Elsewhere there was generally 20 cm of snowfall. In East Tirol the snow depths towards the south have receded significantly. The snowfall was accompanied by strong, sometimes stormy winds, which led to new, trigger sensitive snow drift accumulations forming, especially above the tree line. Elsewhere the old snowpack is quite stably structured for the most part. One exception: southern East Tirol, where intermediate layers inside the snowpack on west to north to east facing slopes have faceted snow crystals beneath the melt freeze crusts. In inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge on north facing slopes above about 2300 m there are layers near the ground which are similarly weak, but a release is currently unlikely.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies in the path of a powerful low pressure system which is moving eastwards only slowly. In its wake the next front system waits and will traverse the land on Monday. Mountain weather today: The Northern Alps are for the most part hidden in cloud, visibility correspondingly poor, light snowfall may continue intermittently during the day. A bit of sunshine will come through on the Main Alpine Ridge. Between Brenta and Dolomites it will be quite sunny, accompanied by cold northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 degrees. Strong to storm strength northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Conditions will continue to remain critical for all those in outlying terrain

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe