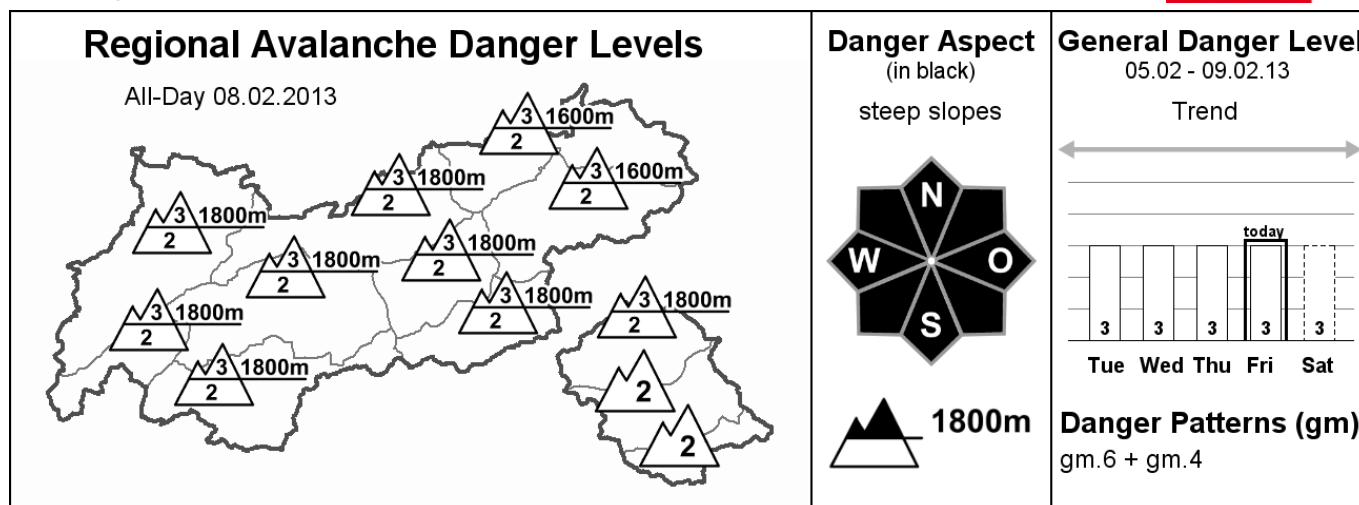


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 08.02.2013, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol remains treacherous, the danger level considerable. The major peril still stems from older and fresh snowdrift accumulations which are usually brittle, making them relatively easy to release as avalanches. Even the weight of a single person is sufficient in general, i.e. one sole skier or freerider. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Since the danger zones have now been frequently blanketed over by snowfall they are difficult to recognize in open country. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain thus require extensive experience in evaluating avalanche hazards.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in Ausserfern, along the Northern Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps there has been as much as 20 cm of new fallen snow; along the Main Alpine Ridge and in inneralpine regions there was just a small amount; East Tirol remained free of precipitation. The high altitude northwesterly winds were blowing at only moderate strength, but still strong enough to transport the fresh fallen snow. New and old snowdrift accumulations alike are brittle and have usually been deposited on top of loosely packed new fallen snow, making the bonding poor and the trigger sensitivity high. In addition, along the Main Alpine Ridge and in inneralpine regions, more than anywhere else, there are layers deeply embedded inside the snowpack which are composed of unbonded, faceted snow crystals.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A powerful arctic cold front extends from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. The Alps are being supplied moist and cold air masses from the north. In North Tirol, snowfall is continually possible; in East Tirol conditions are more favourable, due to the northerly foehn winds. Mountain weather today: cold, accompanied by snowfall from the north. In the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is anticipated, accompanied by overcast skies. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Hohe Tauern snow showers will bring 5 to maximum 10 cm of new fallen snow, with bright intervals in between. In the Dolomites, quite sunny and no snowfall. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 13 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 21 degrees. Moderate northwesterly to northerly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Predominantly considerable avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe