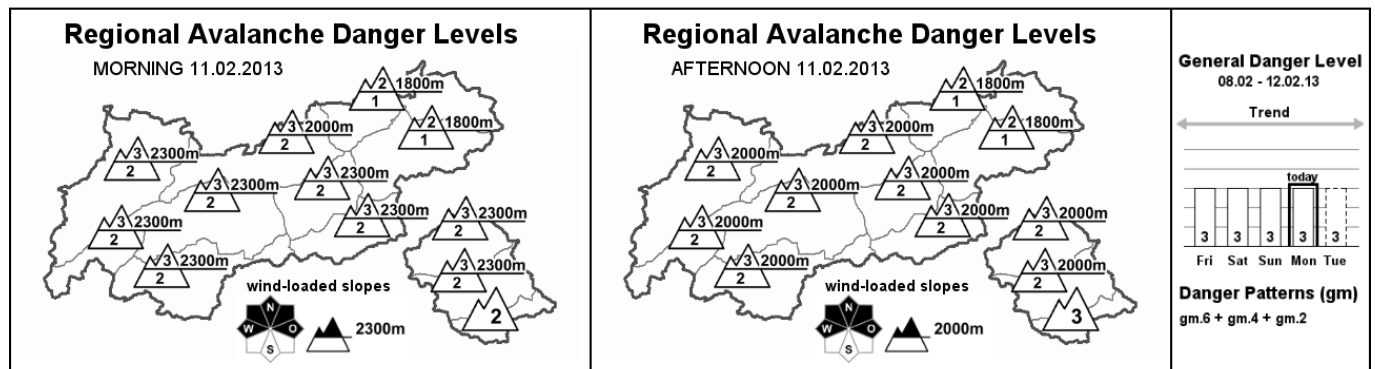


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 11.02.2013, at 07:30



Fresh snowdrift the major peril - Caution urged in foehn exposed lanes!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger continues to be contingent on altitude. During the morning above approximately 2300 m, considerable danger prevails; beneath that altitude, moderate danger; below the treeline to some extent low danger. This afternoon the danger level - due to the increasing wind impact - will rise to considerable above the tree line. The danger is most threatening in the typical foehn lanes, where even beneath the treeline masses of snow will be transported. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift masses, frequently found in ridgeline terrain in W to N to E aspects as well as in gullies and bowls in general. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release these drifted masses. Wind protected terrain is more favourable. Between 1900 and 2300 m, in addition, the snowpack in all aspects harbors a danger surrounding the recently formed rain crusts, particularly when touched by large additional loading. On steep, grass covered slopes isolated full depth snowslides are still possible.

SNOW LAYERING

There is perfect powder to be found in many places. However, with increasing altitude it suffers under the impact of winds. Fresh snowdrift and cold, loose, light powder is poorly bonded on the uppermost surface. The low temperatures make the snowdrift brittle and thus, prone to triggering. A potential weak layer in the snowpack is the presence of thin rain crusts which are frequently bordered by faceted crystals. These spots are often merely small 'nests', but the inadequate bonding is sufficient to release an avalanche.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Cloud is moving in over the mountains, To begin with, it will also veil many summits in fog. During the day, the sun will make a brief, pale appearance north of the Main Alpine Ridge. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards thereof, clouds will be caught in the barrier effect. During the afternoon, snowfall will commence and spread; it will be light to start with, then become heavy in the Southern Alps during the night tonight. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 13 and minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 to minus 11 degrees. Moderate southerly winds, in the foehn exposed lanes winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasing avalanche danger in East Tirol due to snowfall

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe