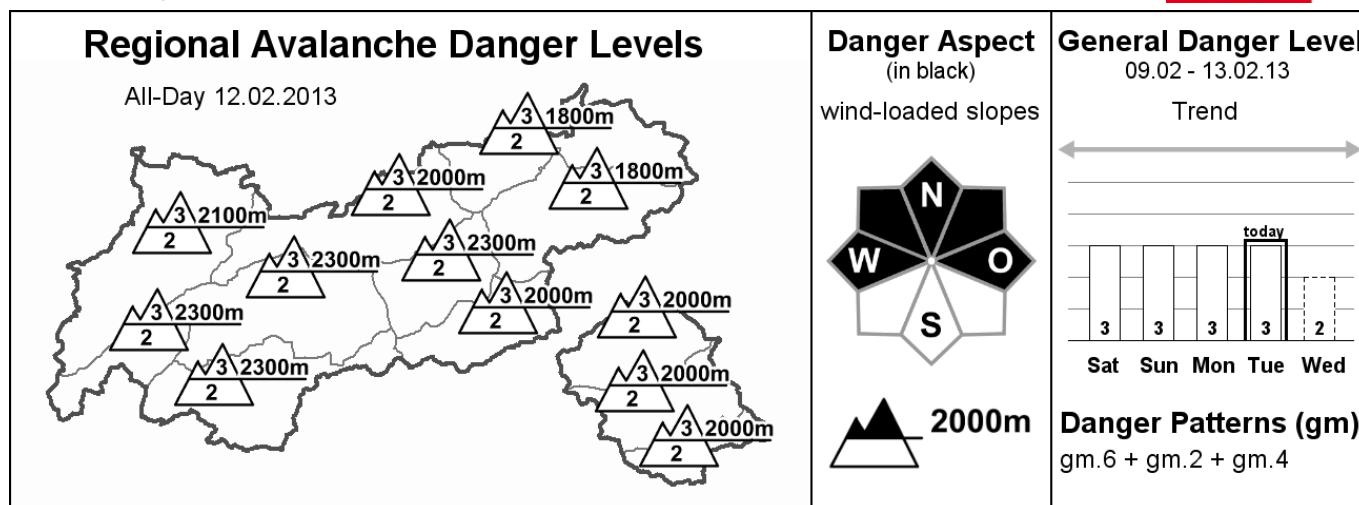


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 12.02.2013, at 07:30



Main danger: fresh snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Depending on region, considerable danger prevails above about 1800 - 2300 m; below that altitude the danger is moderate; below the treeline in wind-protected zones the danger is low. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which are highly prone to triggering. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release an avalanche in steep terrain. The frequency of the avalanche prone locations tends to increase with ascending altitude. In the typical foehn exposed lanes they occur most frequently. Due to the prevailing southerly winds, great caution is urged in W to N to E facing ridgeline terrain as well as in deeply drifted, steep gullies and bowls in general. On steep, grassy slopes, the danger of full depth snowslides still requires caution, particularly where glide cracks appear in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday evening in southern regions in particular there has been snowfall. In southern East Tirol there was up to 30 cm, towards the north there was less, generally 5-10 cm. In the furthestmost northern regions there was just a trace. In the foehn exposed lanes and along the Main Alpine Ridge the foehn winds were strong, leading to massive snow transport. The bonding of the cold snowpack surface to the freshly drifted masses is poor in general, the trigger sensitivity is high. In addition, between 1900 and 2300 m there are layers of faceted crystals and rain crusts inside the snowpack which formed at the end of January. They are not widespread but are a potential bed surface for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Gloomy skies, the higher peaks are shrouded in fog. During the day, snowfall intermittently on the northern flank of the Alps; on the southern flank of the Alps the snowfall will taper off, this afternoon only occasional snow showers. Sun windows most likely near the Ortler. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 11 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Generally light winds from varying directions. Weather in general: a low is centered over the Adriatic Sea which will supply eastern Austria with snowfall today and tomorrow in an increasingly northeastern airstream, its edges just touching Tirol. On Thursday, a brief intermediate high is anticipated.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe