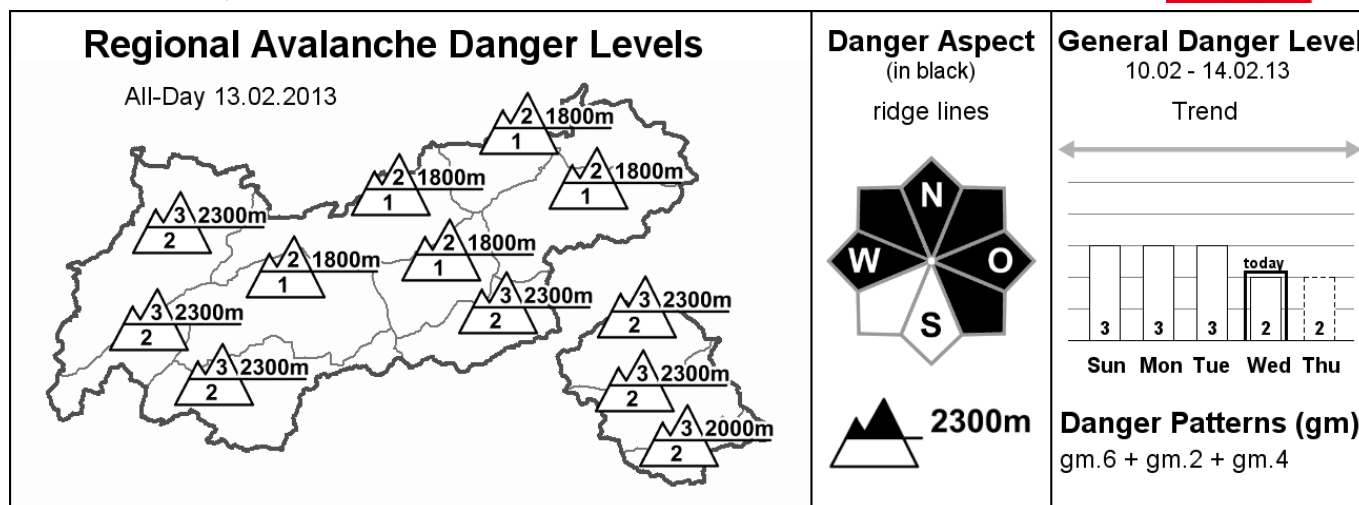


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 13.02.2013, at 07:30



Caution: fresh snowdrift near ridgelines

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and in Arlberg-Ausserfern, considerable avalanche danger prevails above approximately 2300 m; below that altitude the danger level is moderate; below the treeline in wind protected regions it is low. Elsewhere the danger is moderate in general, excluding the south of East Tirol above the treeline, and low below the treeline. The major peril still stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which tend to increase with ascending altitude and which can be triggered as avalanches even by minimum additional loading. As a rule, the danger zones are easily recognized, but the loosely packed new fallen snow frequently blankets them, making recognition difficult. Avalanche prone locations are found more increasingly in W to N to SE facing ridgeline terrain as well as behind terrain edges above the tree line. On steep, grass-covered slopes, full depth snowslides continue to be possible, despite the low temperatures, particularly where glide cracks appear in the snowpack surface "announcing" imminent danger.

SNOW LAYERING

There has again been snowfall in Tirol, amidst low temperatures, widespread 5 to 10 cm of loose, light snow. Moderate westerly winds are sufficient at high altitudes to transport this new fallen snow. The accumulated snowdrift which formed is poorly bonded with the loose, light, cold snowpack beneath it, as has been confirmed by our recent snow analysis as well as naturally triggered, small sized avalanches near ridgelines in the last few days. Near the rain crusts which formed at the end of January are layers of faceted snow crystals, which however only seldom provide a potential bed surface for slab avalanches at altitudes between 1900 and 2300 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: The upper limit of the low lying cloud is about 1500 m in the Arlberg region, at the Zugspitze 2500 m. From this cloud there is light snowfall, amidst low temperatures. The higher one ventures, the sunnier it gets, virtually above the clouds. From the Ortler to the Sarntal Alps, sunshine all day long, east of the Dolomites cloud will move in this afternoon and a few snowflakes are anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 13 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 17 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds. Weather in general: a low over Italy is bringing snow clouds to central and eastern Austria. In Vorarlberg and Tirol the front is giving rise to a cold northeasterly airstream which is moist in its lower layers. More favourable conditions reign on the southern flank of the Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The situation continues to improve

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe