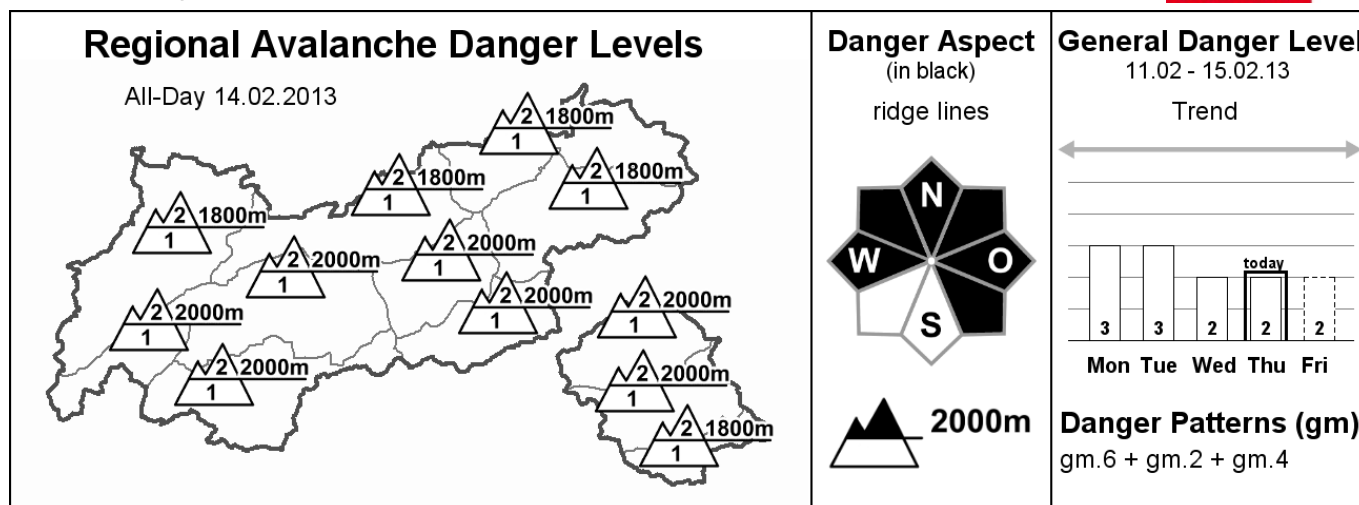


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 14.02.2013, at 07:30



Caution: fresh snowdrift near ridgelines, loose avalanches on sunny slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

Quite favourable conditions currently prevail. The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude and can be assessed as low beneath about 2000 m, above that altitude as moderate. The major peril stems from recently formed snowdrift accumulations which are often blanketed over by loose, light new fallen snow, making them hard to recognize. Due to the recent winds, they are found in W to N to SE facing ridgeline terrain as well as in gullies and bowls in general. Their frequency tends to increase with ascending altitude. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release these drifted masses on steep slopes. In foehn corridors winds will intensify today; particularly in those places, caution is urged towards fresh snowdrift. Elsewhere, on sunny, craggy slopes, harmless loosely packed avalanches can be expected; and on steep, grassy slopes continuing full depth snowslides in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

The recently fallen snow was not influenced by winds to a great extent; due to the low temperatures, it is still loose and light and covers over the snowdrift which accumulated at the beginning of the week. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are currently the borderline point of contact between the snowdrift and the loose, cold fresh fallen snow on top of it. Between 1900 and 2300 m there are embedded thin rain crusts which came about at the end of January and beginning of February, surrounded to some extent by faceted crystals. These could provide a weak layer which releases slab avalanches, especially on steep, sunny or heavily drifted slopes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: excellent conditions for winter sports. Visibility above the high fog is outstanding, sunshine all day long. In addition, temperatures are rising and there will not be much wind, excluding in the Wipp Valley. Temperature at 2000: -11 to -5 degrees; at 3000 m: -11 degrees. Light to moderate southeasterly winds, brisker this afternoon in the Wipp Valley. Weather in general: western Austria is in the path of two front systems, one withdrawing from Italy and another over the British Isles which will bring an intermediate high, followed by perturbations.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Generally favourable conditions will continue

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe