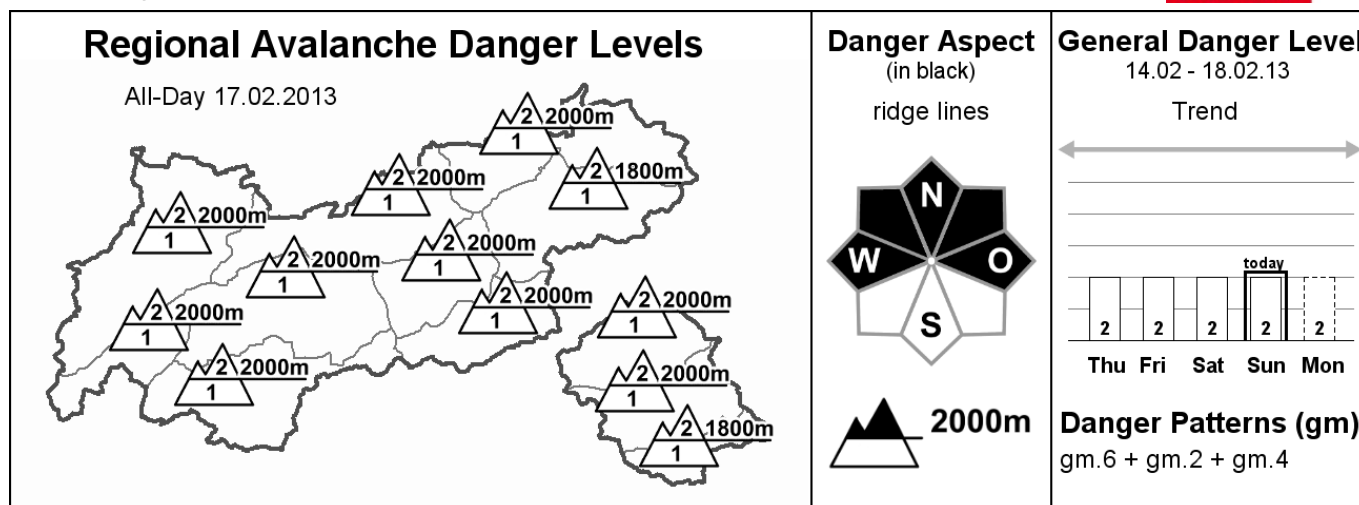


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 17.02.2013, at 07:30



Favourable touring conditions continue, caution near steep ridgeline areas

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Above generally about 2000 m moderate danger prevails; below that altitude, low danger. Conditions are favourable far and wide, with two caveats: fresh snowdrift accumulations near ridgelines on very steep W to N to E facing slopes above about 2000 m, which are usually small sized, frequently easily recognized, but can be triggered even by minimum additional loading at high altitudes. Secondly, snow at low and intermediate altitudes on steep, grass-covered slopes can still release as a full depth snowslide. This applies to all areas where glide cracks have appeared in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

Variable weather conditions brought only a few centimeters of snowfall, maximum 20 cm. No wind. The most potent bed surface for slab avalanches is the point of contact between recently formed snowdrift and the loose, light, cold new fallen snow beneath it. Due to the partially diffuse light yesterday, the bonding improved somewhat. On shady slopes above approximately 2000 m, or in high alpine regions in general, the snowpack at this point of contact is still quite trigger sensitive. Elsewhere there are faceted snow crystals deeply embedded inside the snowpack, surrounded by rain and melt-freeze crusts, near the treeline up to about 2300 m and above about 2300 m in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge on shady slopes. These layers do not currently present a major threat.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: still variable. At low altitudes, cloud resembling high fog; especially along the Northern Alps light snowfall is possible in isolated cases. High altitude cloud will move past above summit altitude, accompanied by sunny intervals. Cloudy in the Dolomites, amidst light snow showers. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 16 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Weather in general: A weak high pressure zone with moist, cold air masses will traverse the north today, bringing persistently variable conditions. On Monday, an intermediate high will dominate.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable conditions go on

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe