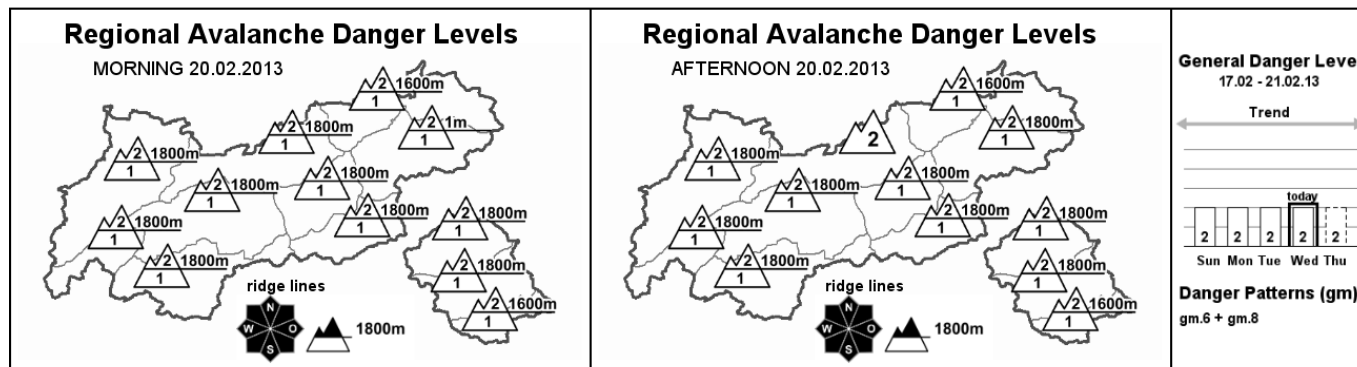


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 20.02.2013, at 07:30



Beware fresh snowdrift!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has increased slightly. Above approximately 1800 m the danger level is predominantly moderate. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift which accumulated yesterday as a result of the intensifying winds. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on shady, very steep slopes in all aspects. Also transition areas from deep to shallow snow should be assessed with great care. On very steep, sunny slopes, naturally triggered full depth avalanches are possible in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

Brisk westerly to northwesterly winds which reached strong velocity in ridgeline areas gave rise to new accumulations of snowdrift yesterday. These drifted masses have on shady slopes frequently been deposited atop a loosely packed old snowpack surface, making them quite prone to triggering. In isolated cases over the last few days, surface hoar has formed, providing the perfect weak layer for snowdrift deposited on top of it. Inside the snow cover, particularly in inneralpine regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge, are faceted, unbonded snow crystals; they are a threat particularly where the snow is shallow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low pressure zone over Eastern Europe is bringing cold, moist air masses from the north to the Alps. This low is extending westwards, giving Tyrol wintery cold weather conditions. As the airstream stretches to the southwest, the southern flank of the Alps will be supplied with snowfall as of tomorrow. Mountain weather today: wintery conditions accompanied by snowfall and low temperatures, 5-10 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated by Thursday morning, most of which will fall in the Northern Alps and in the eastern sector of the Main Alpine Ridge. In the western sector and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, intermittent sunshine and mostly dry weather during the day. Tonight snowfall is expected in the Dolomites. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate northerly to northwesterly high altitude winds, with a tendency to slacken off.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift will persist as the major peril

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe