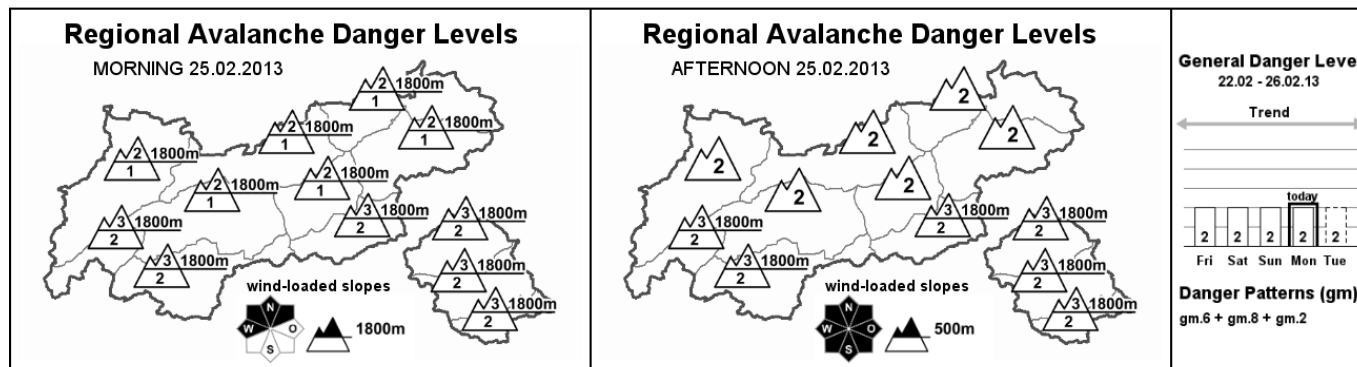


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 25.02.2013, at 07:30



## Numerous loosely packed avalanches, some highly trigger sensitive snowdrift at high altitude

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude and the current wind impact, as well as increasing solar radiation. The least favourable situation is in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tirol, where considerable danger prevails due to the intense winds above the treeline; below that altitude the danger level is moderate. In the remaining parts of Tirol the danger level above the treeline is moderate; below that level it is low this morning. As solar radiation increases, the danger will rise to moderate even at lower altitudes. The highest caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which can be easily triggered even by minimum additional loading. Their frequency tends to increase with ascending altitude. They are found particularly in areas adjacent to ridgelines in W to N to NE aspects as well as in general behind terrain edges. In case of intense solar radiation, small slab avalanches can trigger naturally as of this afternoon. Also numerous small sized loosely packed avalanches are expected from craggy terrain. The conditions in shady, wind protected zones are more favourable. On steep, grassy slopes, particularly where glide cracks have appeared in the snowpack surface, full depth snowslides can be expected.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been additional snowfall. In East Tirol and along the Main Alpine Ridge there was 10-30 cm, further to the north generally only a few centimeters. Winds were highly variable, along the Main Alpine Ridge they were strongest. Snow analysis has shown that the snowdrift is in general poorly bonded with the loose, light, cold snowpack beneath it. Particularly near ridgelines in shady terrain there is surface hoar as a potential bed surface for slab avalanches (Nigg effect). Other weak layers inside the snowpack are the faceted snow crystals in the areas of southern East Tirol where snowfall was heaviest, especially as solar radiation increases.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: only little cloud in the mountains, mostly sunshine today. In southern regions, the cloud will extend to higher altitudes. It is cold, but the southerly winds are light. Visibility is excellent. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Light southerly winds. Weather in general: Tirol lies in the path of a low pressure zone over the Gulf of Genoa. The cold persists. In southern regions, cloud is heavy, but the air pressure is gradually rising and the next few days promise milder and sunnier weather.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche situation will gradually improve.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe