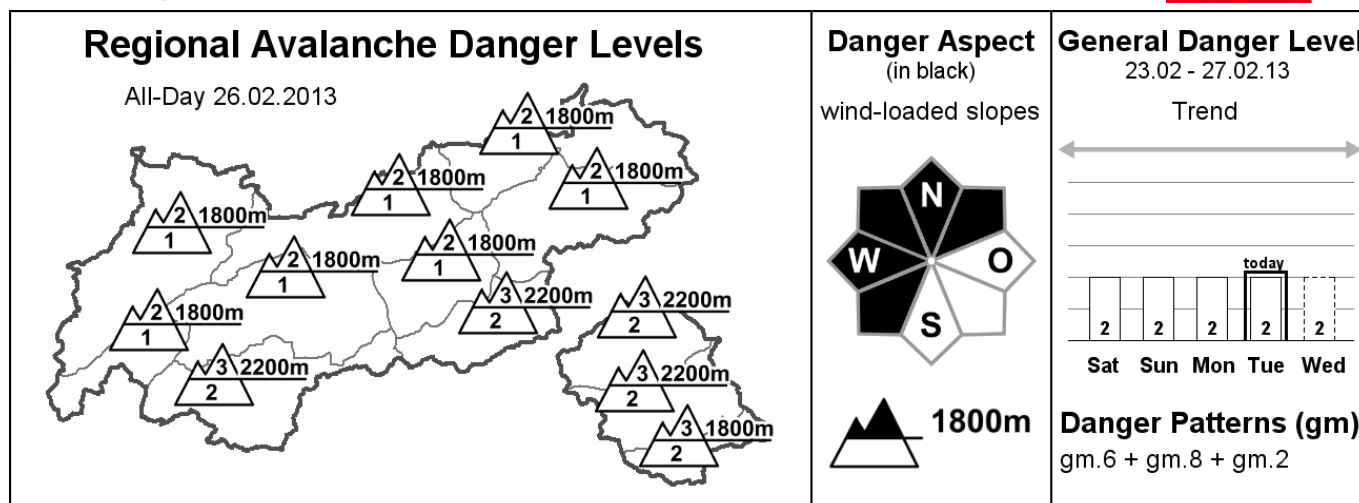


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 26.02.2013, at 07:30



Still the major hazard: recently formed snowdrift above treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude, the danger levels are more favourable in northern than in southern regions. In the south, considerable danger prevails above the treeline; below that altitude it is moderate. In the north, the danger level above the treeline is moderate; below that altitude it is low. The reason is that there has been much more snowfall in the south in recent days, as well as stronger winds. Snowdrift accumulations which have formed are easy to trigger in general. They are found frequently on SW to N to NE facing ridgeline slopes. Their frequency tends to increase with ascending altitude. In southern East Tirol, in addition, slab avalanches can be release above the treeline even by minimum additional loading, particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow in very steep W-NW to N to E-NE facing slopes, and reach medium size. Full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes in both low and intermediate altitude terrain are still possible. Areas below glide cracks should be avoided whenever possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The major peril inside the snowpack is the point of contact between recently formed snowdrift and the loose, light new fallen snow beneath it; moreover, in shady, ridgeline terrain above the treeline that snowpack often is covered by surface hoar. The bonding between these layers is generally poor, making the entire snowpack trigger sensitive. Additional weak layers inside the snow cover are to be found in intermediate layers: faceted, unbonded crystals surrounded by hardened crusts. In southern East Tirol, tensions are building from the new fallen snow of recent days which was deposited atop the tension-free snow cover. In general, snow quality deteriorates with ascending altitude and increasing wind impact. Below the treeline, on the other hand, there is still good powder snow in shady terrain

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Moderate velocity easterly winds are bringing high altitude cloud which will create diffuse light. The cloud level will drop from east to west by midday, shrouding the summits in fog. In North Tirol light snowfall is expected; in East Tirol it will be heavier. Sunshine only in the early morning hours in the western regions. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate easterly winds. Weather in general: The low pressure zone over southern France is weakening. The clouds of a warm front are moving over the eastern Alps, bringing light snowfall to North and South Tirol, some to East Tirol. As of tomorrow, Wednesday, high pressure conditions will prevail, and it will turn milder.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche situation will improve only slowly

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe