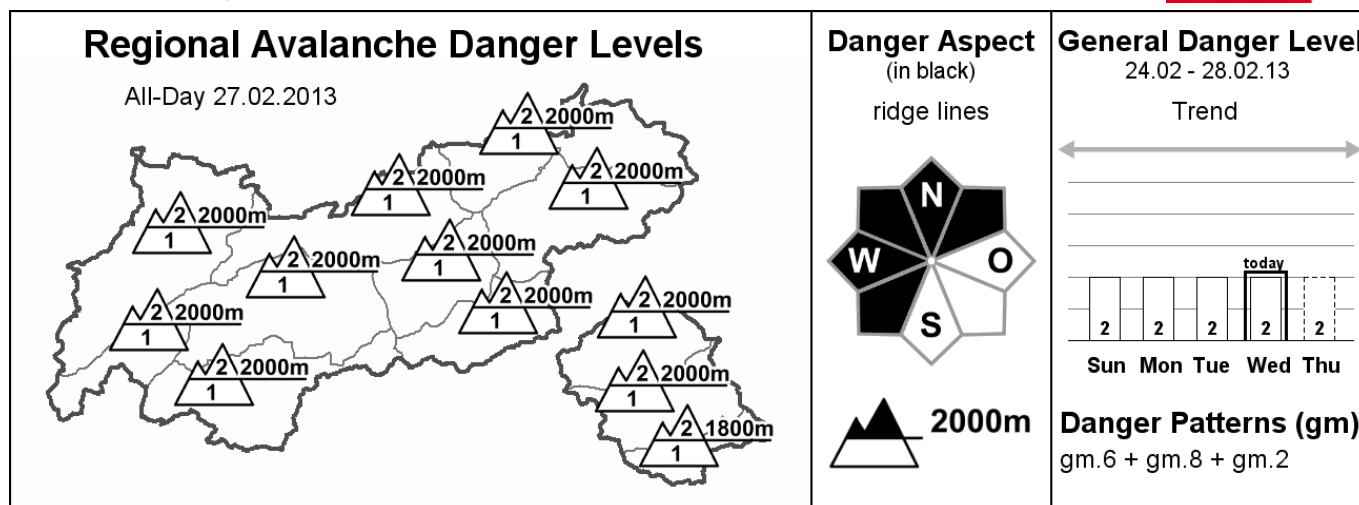


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 27.02.2013, at 07:30



Increasingly favourable conditions. Beware ridgeline snowdrift and full depth slides.

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation has improved another notch, the danger level above the treeline can now be judged moderate in general. Below the treeline it is low. The major peril still comes from recently formed snowdrift accumulations above the treeline, frequently on SW to N to NE facing ridgeline slopes. They are usually small, easily recognized and can in isolated cases be triggered even by minimum additional loading in very steep terrain. In southern East Tirol it is possible to trigger avalanches in transition areas from shallow to deep snow in steep terrain, especially through large additional loading. Full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes are still a threat. Areas below glide cracks in the snowpack surface should be avoided whenever possible. Caution urged also towards cracks in cornices which can release slab avalanches in ridgeline areas.

SNOW LAYERING

Snowpack analysis has shown that the bonding between the recent snowdrift and the loose, light, cold snowpack surface beneath it is improving daily. With ascending altitude, the trigger sensitivity tends to increase. Least favourable is ridgeline, shady terrain which is covered by surface hoar. In southern East Tirol, in addition, there is embedded inside the snowpack a crusted zone with faceted snow crystals which is a potential bed surface for slab avalanches above the treeline.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: In the Northern Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge it will be sunny above the high fog (which in places reaches up to 1600 m) all day long, with interspersed light cloud. In the Southern Alps it will be cloudier at high altitude, but also sunnier. Winds are expected to taper off and it will be relatively mild. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Brisk easterly winds to begin with, then slackening off. Weather in general: A powerful high pressure zone has formed over northern Europe and Tirol lies in its path. Apart from at ground level, the air is very dry.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing favourable conditions, more noticeable effects of solar radiation

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe