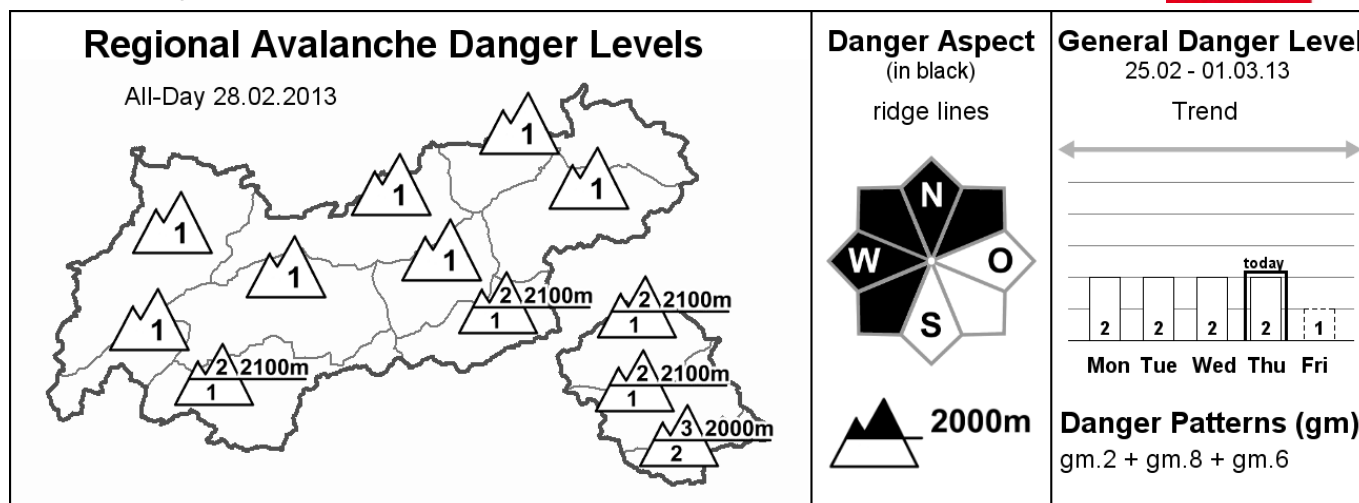


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 28.02.2013, at 07:30



Favourable conditions, excluding in southern East Tirol

AVALANCHE DANGER

The conditions far and wide are predominantly favourable, amidst a certain north-south gradient in the avalanche danger level. Least favourable is the situation in southern East Tirol, where above approximately 2000 m the danger level is considerable; below that altitude it is moderate; below the treeline it is low. In the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, the Zillertal Alps and in remaining East Tirol, the danger above 2100 m is moderate; below that altitude low. In the remaining regions of North Tirol, low danger generally prevails. Avalanche prone locations are the recently accumulated, small drifted masses of snow which are frequently found on SW to N to NE facing ridgeline slopes. These danger zones are usually easy to recognize. In southern East Tirol, in addition, slab avalanches can release above 2000 m inside the old snow cover in very steep, W-NW to N to E-NE facing terrain, particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, by minimum additional loading. In extremely steep, sunny terrain, isolated loosely packed avalanches are expected at low and intermediate altitudes this afternoon. Full depth snowslides remain a threat on steep, grass covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover is generally stable and without internal tensions. Slab avalanches are likeliest in ridgeline areas where the surface hoar has been buried by new fallen snow. In southern East Tirol, in addition, there is a weak layer embedded in the snowpack from mid-January composed of faceted snow crystals with an adjacent hardened crust. The bonding of this layer with the layers on top of it is improving, but above the treeline in shady terrain, minimum additional loading is all that is required to trigger a medium sized avalanche. The snow quality has deteriorated due to wind impact on the weekend, the melt-freeze crusts have become more numerous. Good powder is still to be found in wind protected, shady zones.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: outstanding conditions. Above the fog, i.e. above 1400 m, the sun will be shining from the early morning hours, cloudless skies and excellent visibility are anticipated in high alpine regions, accompanied by mild temperatures and little wind. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Weather in general: a powerful high pressure zone extends from the British Isles over the Alps almost to the Black Sea. Apart from ground level, the air masses are very dry and relatively mild.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable conditions continue, accompanied by deteriorating snow quality

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe