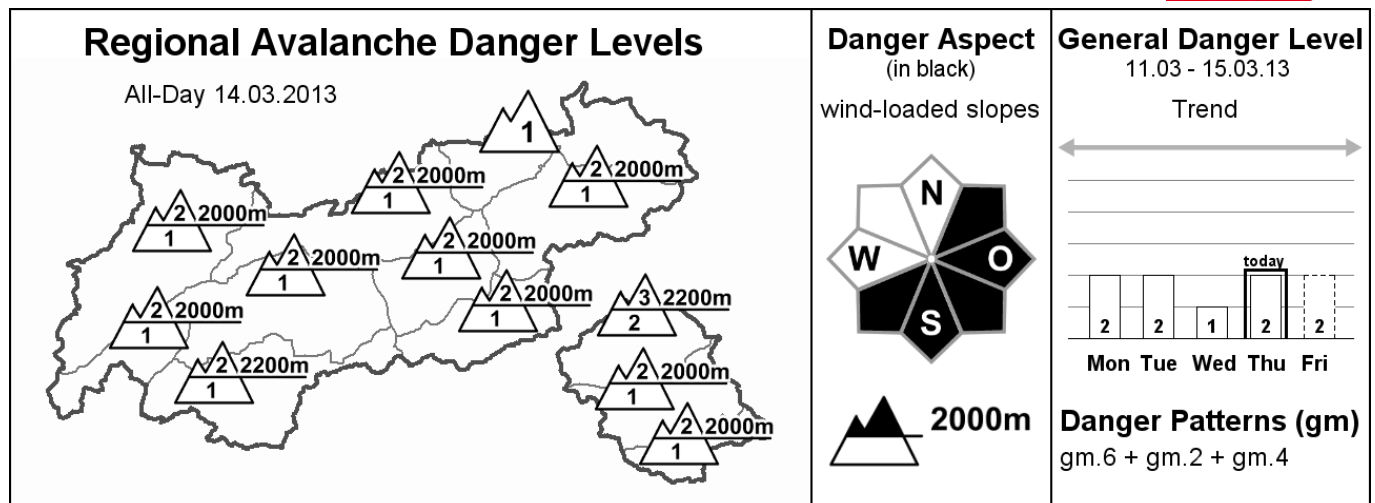


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 14.03.2013, at 07:30



Caution: fresh, small snowdrift masses above the treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the East Tirolean Tauern above approximately 2200m, considerable danger prevails; below that altitude the danger level is moderate; below the treeline it is low. Elsewhere the danger level above about 2000m is frequently moderate, below that altitude low. The major peril comes from fresh, usually small snowdrift accumulations, frequently in ridgeline terrain in NE to E to SW aspects, often triggerable even by minimum additional loading. In the East Tirolean Tauern such drifted masses are more frequent. In addition, on steep, grassy slopes below about 2400m in NE to S to NW aspects, full depth snowslides still require great caution. Areas below glide cracks in the snowpack surface should be avoided whenever possible.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been snowfall in Tirol, heaviest in East Tirol and the southern Zillertal Alps (up to 20 cm, often less than 10 cm). Winds are highly variable, sometimes stronger at low than at high altitudes. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are to be found in the fresh fallen snow from Sunday, which is now faceted. Beneath that new fallen snow are frequently wind-hardened crusts capable of bearing loads or melt-freeze crusts. On very steep, sunny slopes the powder snow has now transformed to a melt-freeze crust up to about 2400m. Fresh snowdrift is poorly bonded with the faceted powder.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: In North Tirol skies will be overcast in general accompanied by intermittent light snowfall down to low lying areas, heaviest in the barrier regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Inn Valley - barely any snowfall is expected in the Upper Inn Valley. Possible bright intervals during the day, in western South Tirol from the Vinschgau to Bolzano the skies will gradually brighten; further to the east they will remain variably cloudy to heavily overcast, but dry, except for the Main Alpine Ridge. Strong northerly winds in the Eisack Valley and Isel Valley. Temperature in North Tirol: minus 3 to plus 1 degree; in Lienz 5 degrees; in Bolzano 9 degrees. Weather in general: A low pressure zone over Italy is bringing cold air masses to the Alps in a northeasterly current. This creates a barrier cloud effect on the northern flank of the Alps which will persist until Friday. On the southern flank of the Alps, northerly foehn effect.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Temporarily favourable conditions widespread. Fresh snowdrift is the major peril.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe