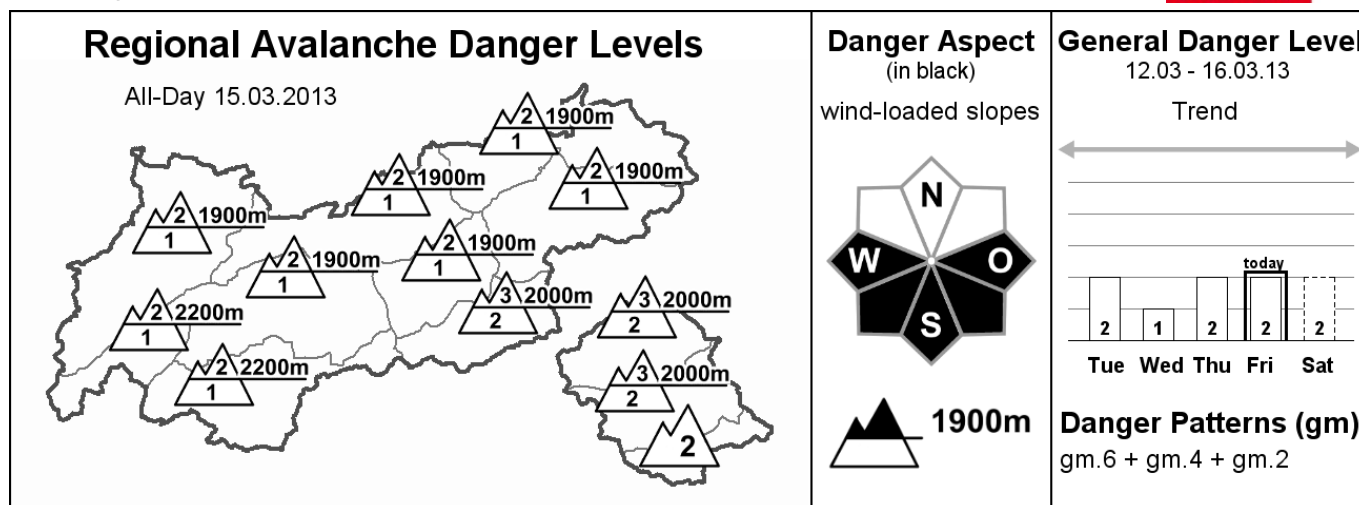


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 15.03.2013, at 07:30



Beware fresh, trigger-sensitive snowdrift, especially above treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

In East Tirol and the Zillertal Alps, considerable avalanche danger prevails above about 2000 m; beneath that altitude moderate; beneath about 1600m, low. In the rest of Tirol the danger above 1900m is generally moderate, below that altitude it is low. Caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations above all, particularly in East Tirol and along the Main Alpine Ridge above the treeline. In wind exposed areas small, naturally triggered slab avalanches are also possible in steep ridgeline areas. Due to the prevailing northerly wind direction, the danger zones are found especially in steep W to S to E facing slopes, where even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release small slab avalanches. With experience in assessing avalanche hazards, the avalanche prone locations are easily recognized. In addition, wherever there is sunshine, caution is urged towards loosely packed avalanches from craggy terrain. Full depth snowslides on steep, grass-covered slopes remain a threat, although they are now seldom.

SNOW LAYERING

There has again been snowfall amidst deep winter temperatures, most of which fell in eastern regions of North Tirol and in northern East Tirol (up to 25 cm). Winds have intensified, blowing at their strongest in East Tirol and along the Main Alpine Ridge. The cold, light, loose new fallen snow is being massively transported. Snow analysis demonstrates that the bonding of snowdrift to the old snowpack surface is poor in general. Caution is urged in those spots where greater amounts of snowdrift have accumulated, since internal tensions make it threatening.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: cold and windy, only a bit of snowfall on the northern flank of the Alps. Along the Northern Alps and from the Kitzbühel Alps to the Tauern, intermittent light snow showers (less than 10 cm of fresh fallen snow). From the Zillertal Alps to the Silvretta, dry and intermittently sunny. Generally sunny and very windy throughout the Southern Alps. Temperature at 2000m: minus 14 degrees; at 3000m: minus 20 degrees. Moderate to strong northerly winds, at storm strength from the Hohe Tauern to the Dolomites. By evening, winds will slacken off. Weather in general: wedged between a low over Eastern Europe and a high over Western Europe, the Alps are caught in a cold and moderately moist air current from the north. Tomorrow an intermediate high will dominate. On Sunday, the southwesterly air current will bring southerly foehn winds to North Tirol.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Numerous small loosely packed avalanches expected tomorrow, otherwise no significant change

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe