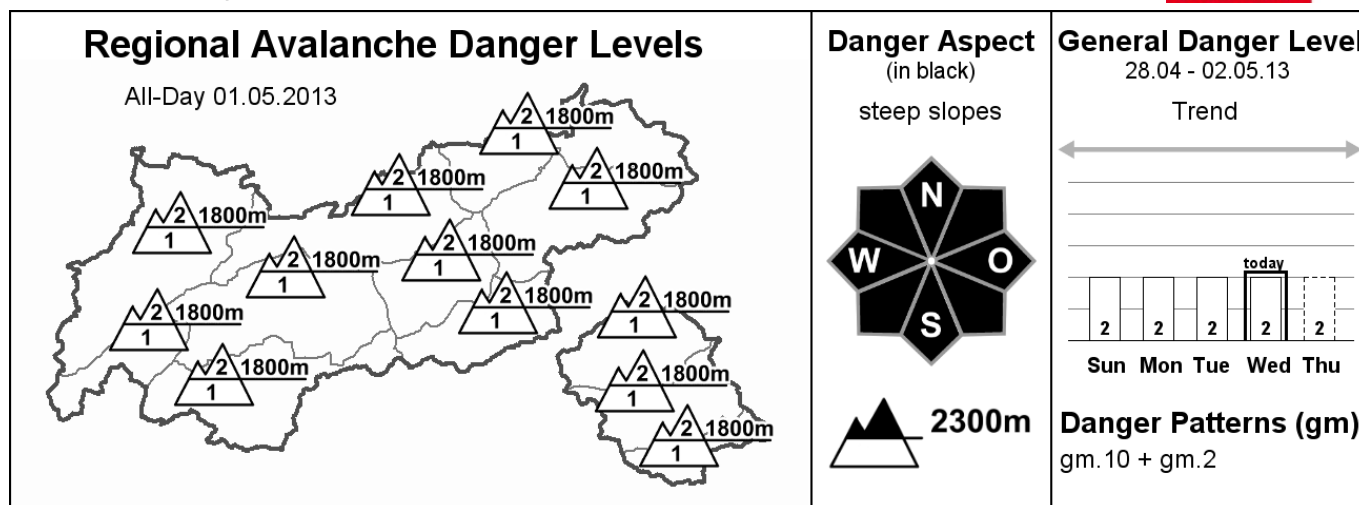


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 01.05.2013, at 07:30



Final scheduled avalanche report of the season

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger on 1 May is contingent on altitude: above approximately 1800m the danger level is moderate, below 1800m it is low, since the slopes have become exceedingly bare of snow. The major hazard is for backcountry skiers and freeriders to trigger wet, loose snow avalanches, most frequently above approximately 2300m in extremely steep terrain where the snowpack surface is wet. Caution is urged towards cornices, which also fracture and trigger avalanches. Slab avalanches can be released only in rare cases, particularly on steep, W to N to E facing slopes above approximately 2400m, usually through large additional loading, e.g. from a wet, loose snow avalanche. Full depth snowslides are possible in isolated cases on steep, grassy slopes. For that reason, avoid areas where glide cracks appear in the snowpack surface. Conditions above approximately 2800m, where winds have cooled the snowpack and exercised a positive influence, are more favourable.

SNOW LAYERING

At low and intermediate altitudes, the slopes are rapidly becoming bare of snow. A cohesive, area-wide snowpack is now seldom. The snow cover is at least superficially moist to over 3000m, becoming thoroughly wet down to the ground with descending altitude. Below about 2300m the old snowpack is settled and well bonded, in the process of transforming to firm snow. Weakly bonded layers threatening slab avalanches are rare, at best where snow is shallow and a mixture of melt-freeze snow and old depth hoar is evident near the ground.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The Alps remain in the path of a warm southwesterly airstream bringing foehn tendencies to North Tirol. Over the weekend, a low pressure zone will reach us from the southwest and bring precipitation. Temperatures will recede somewhat. Mountain weather today: heavily overcast, a few rain showers in western regions, snowfall level at 3000m. The sun will come out later on in North and East Tirol, but it will remain windy. Towards evening in the Lechtal Alps and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, a tendency towards thunderstorms. The night will be dry but cloudy, clear skies seldom. Temperature at 2000m: plus 10 degrees; at 3000m: plus 1 degree. Moderate to strong velocity southerly winds, in the Tux Alps winds will blow at storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Forecast: Conditions will improve if the nights are clearer and cooler than last night, they also improve with ascending altitude. Heed the daytime warming cycle which creates fluctuating avalanche danger each day. Good opportunities for backcountry tours can also be found on high altitude ski runs where winter operations have terminated. Thank you for the numerous reports on conditions throughout this last winter season.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe