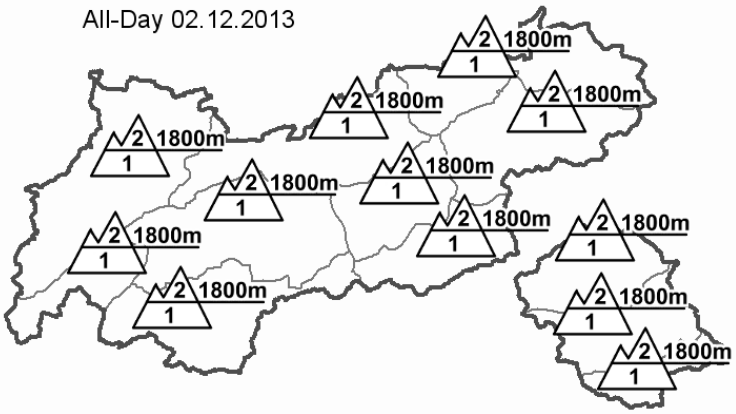
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 02.12.2013, at 07:30

Regional Avalanche Danger Levels



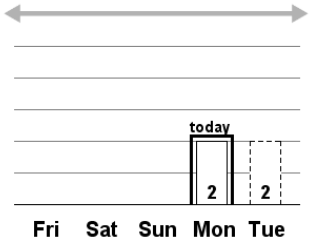
Danger Aspect
(in black)

wind-loaded slopes

1800m

General Danger Level
29.11 - 03.12.13

Trend



Danger Patterns (gm)

gm.4 + gm.2

Caution urged in steep, drifted terrain at 1800-2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude: above the treeline the danger is moderate, below it, low. Most caution is necessary in drifted, very steep terrain between about 1800 and 2200 m, where weak layers are evident inside the snow cover which could even trigger from minimum additional loading. In addition, the freshly drifted snow on steep ridgeline slopes requires caution. The snow in the regions where snowfall was heaviest can slide across steep grassy slopes. Such full depth snowslides will remain small sized; their imminent release is indicated by glide cracks in the snowpack surface.

SNOW LAYERING

In Tirol an area-wide snowpack is widespread, snow depths are deepest in East Tirol and the higher altitude regions of the Main Alpine Ridge. The Northern Alps east of Innsbruck and the Kitzbühel Alps have snow depths corresponding to the juncture of the season. The snow layering varies greatly. It is least favourable between about 1800 and 2200 m, where a pronounced weak layer of faceted crystals has formed near embedded thin crusts. This is where small slab avalanches were triggered over the last few days in very steep, drifted terrain. During the cold period, surface hoar formed in some places. In high alpine regions, the snowpack has been heavily impacted by winds. In isolated cases on shady slopes there is depth hoar near the ground, developed from the snowfall in October.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: sunny, very good visibility, cloudless skies, rising temperatures above about 2000 m (the zero-degree level will climb to 3000 m). Still windy in eastern regions. Temperature at 2000 m: +6 degrees, at 3000 m: zero degrees. Moderate to brisk easaterly to northeastesrly winds, stronger on the Arlberg. Weather in general: a high pressure zone with its center over the British Isles is the determining force in western and central Europe. Classic inversion conditions in the Alps: cold on the ground, significantly milder in the mountains.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Strong easterly winds will create new snowdrift accumulations.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**