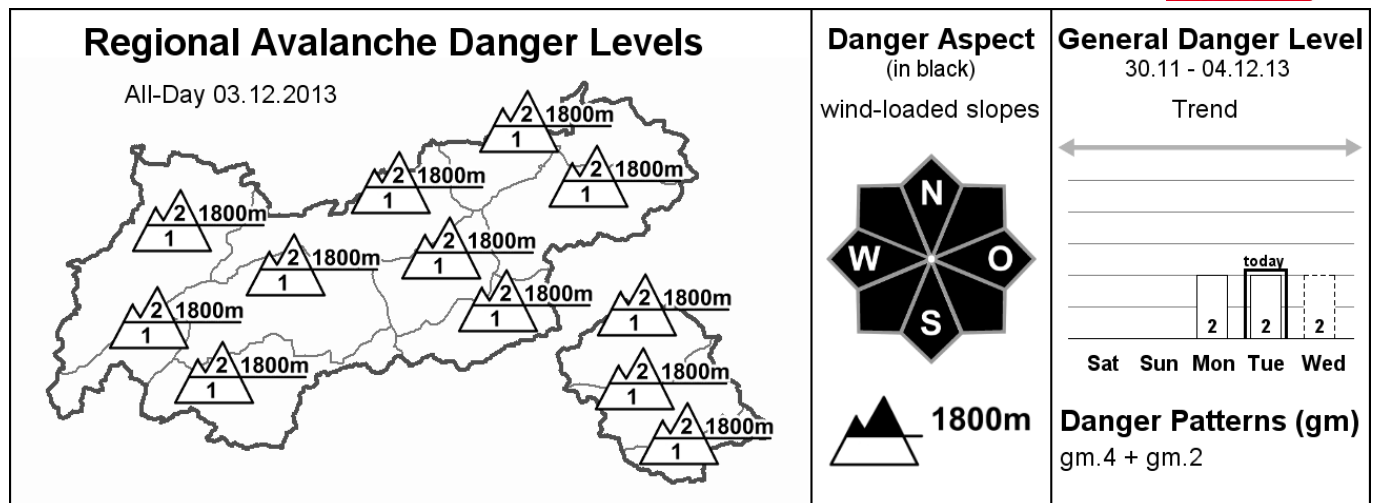


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 03.12.2013, at 07:30



Caution urged in steep, drifted terrain especially near ridgelines

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is still contingent on altitude: above the treeline the danger is moderate, below it, low. Most caution is necessary in drifted, very steep terrain, especially ridgeline areas and gullies and bowls where currently the best skiing is. Small slab avalanches are likeliest between about 1800 and 2200 m, since the snow layering is least favourable at that altitude and even minimum additional loading is often sufficient to bring about a release. In high alpine regions, caution is urged towards fresh snowdrift in west facing ridgeline areas. The upside: danger zones are easy to spot. On steep, grass covered slopes, sluffs are possible; in southern East Tyrol, small full depth snowslides have been observed.

SNOW LAYERING

The long period of cold, interrupted today by very mild weather, made a great impact. Between 1800 and 2200 m near embedded, thin melt-freeze crusts which formed at the beginning and end of November, there are faceted, loosely packed snow crystals whose bonding to the surrounding layers is poor in some places. It is highly prone to triggering wherever snowdrift covers a wide surface. At lower altitudes the snow cover is low in tensions; in high alpine regions highly impacted by winds. Freshly drifted masses can be triggered in those regions. In addition, the snowpack surface, particularly at low and intermediate altitudes, has formed surface hoar on shady slopes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high pressure zone continues its influence in Central Europe, remaining dominant until Thursday. As of Friday a northwestern current will bring snowfall down to low lying areas. Mountain weather today: unbroken sunshine, outstanding visibility, a few feathery clouds will move in from the north. Above the inversion, above-freezing temperatures up to nearly 3000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: 7 degrees, at 3000 m: -1 degree. Light, in some places brisk, winds from varying directions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe