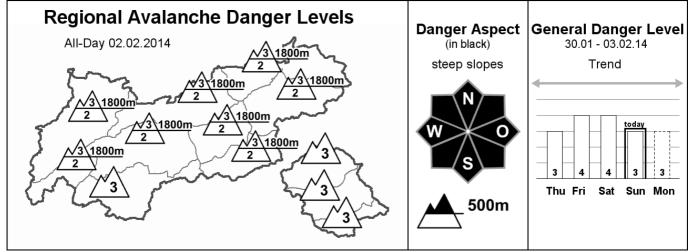


Avalanche Bulletinof the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Sunday, 02.02.2014, at 07:30





DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.2 - sliding snow; dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold; dp.8 - surface hoar blanketed with snow

Critical level 3 far and wide, beware full depth snowslides in East Tirol

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in East Tirol has diminished somewhat, down to a "critical level 3". Slab avalanches are somewhat less likely to trigger naturally due to increased settling and stabilising of the snowpack and the diminishing winds. Nonetheless great caution is urged towards full depth snowslides which can release on steep, grassy slopes at low and intermediate altitudes in all aspects which can attain large size. In North Tirol the danger level is considerable above the treeline; in the southern Stubai Alps the danger level is considerable in general; at the borderline to the Main Alpine Ridge it is critical. Avalanches can be released by minimum additional loading, as confirmed yesterday by reports of skiers triggering releases and by increasing numbers of glide cracks appearing in the snowpack surface. Evaluating the hazards in outlying terrain is made difficult by poor visibility today, great prudence and restraint are imperative.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been an additional 25 cm of snowfall in southern East Tirol and the southern Stubai Alps, from place to place more. The wind has slackened off. A noticeable settling of the very deep snowpack has taken place. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are found in the near-to-surface layers: at high altitudes the powder snow which has been blanketed by new snowdrift; or the faceted snow crystals atop a melt-freeze crust on very steep, sunny slopes below 2800 m; or covered surface hoar in shady terrain. Below about 2000 m the snowpack was at least superficially moistened in many regions yesterday.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: The summits are shrouded in fog and cloudbanks, light snowfall will taper off this afternoon, bringing only minor amounts of new fallen snow (5-10 cm by tomorrow morning). Temperature at 2000m: -5 degrees; at 3000m -8 degrees. Light to moderate southerly winds, brisker in eastern regions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Full depth snowslides in East Tirol are the main danger. Snowdrift accumulations above the treeline remain prone to triggering.

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