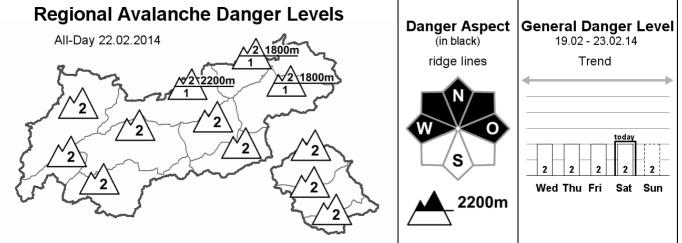


Avalanche Bulletin of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Saturday, 22.02.2014, at 07:30





DANGER PATTERNS (DP): <u>dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold;</u> <u>dp.2 - sliding snow;</u> <u>dp.9 - graupel</u> <u>blanketed with snow</u>

Danger level predominantly moderate

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is generally moderate. The major hazards in high alpine regions stem from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are found above all else in ridgeline terrain, especially W to N to E facing slopes, where in isolated cases avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. During the course of the day it will turn increasingly sunny, making naturally triggered avalanches of loosely packed snow a prominent threat on sunny slopes. Caution: at the borderline between the cold new fallen snow and the moist surface of the old snowpack, a thin weak layer can form on sunny slopes; this will increase avalanche danger. Below about 2200m, naturally triggered full depth snowslides are still a threat.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in the Stubai and Ötztal Alps there was 15-20 cm of snowfall widespread; in remaining North Tirol and in East Tirol there was generally 10 cm of new fallen snow; in southern East Tirol as much as 25 cm. Winds were blowing at above transport velocity in high alpine ridgeline terrain, leading to fresh, small-sized snowdrift masses accumulating anew. The old snowpack has settled well in general and is quite stable. Deeply embedded weak layers near the ground can be triggered, particularly in transition areas from deep to shallow snow. In addition, the danger pattern known as 'cold atop warm' could be a threat: the cold fresh fallen snow was deposited on sunny slopes atop a superficially moistened snowpack surface. Above about 2600m this could lead to the formation of a weak layer.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low pressure system over the Atlantic is sending a westerly jetstream towards Central Europe, inside of which a small intermediate high pressure zone is embedded. Tonight, a weak disturbance will follow in its wake. Thereafter, a powerful high pressure front will regain the upper hand and dominate. Mountain weather today: Snowfall will end, cloud disperse, sunshine reign by this afternoon (although not all summits will be free of fog). In the Tirolean lowlands and in East Tirol, cloud will be more tenacious, but by evening should disperse, bringing sunshine there as well. Temperature at 2000m: -6 degrees; at 3000m: -13 degrees. Light to moderate westerly to northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Moderate danger widespread

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe