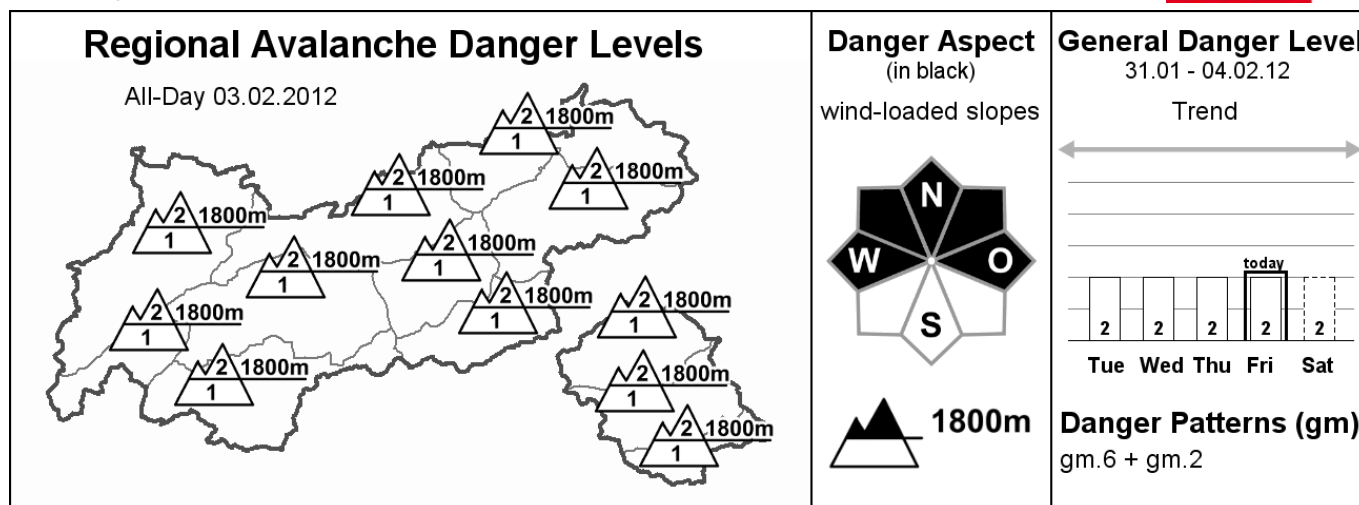


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 03.02.2012, at 07:30



Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is predominantly moderate. The major peril stems from freshly formed, small snowdrift masses: they are quite brittle, making them easy to trigger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m in western to northern to eastern aspects. The frequency and spread of the danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. The danger of naturally triggered full depth snowslides has receded somewhat. On steep, grassy slopes below about 2400 m in eastern to southern to western aspects, they can still be expected in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, there has again been a dusting of very light, dry snow. The high altitude southerly to southeasterly winds are blowing at moderate velocity and are gusty, prompting the transport of the extremely light fresh fallen snow and leading to new snowdrift accumulations forming. They are poorly bonded with the uppermost layers of the snowpack, which makes them highly trigger sensitive. The snow layering is favourable in general, it has settled and consolidated well and is stable. A weak fundament of unbonded depth hoar is to be found in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, where snow from autumn has transformed to faceted crystals.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general. The overall weather situation remains unchanged: high pressure over northeastern Europe, low pressure over the Mediterranean. From the northeast, icy air masses are being funneled to Tyrol, but the lowermost layer of the atmosphere remains moist through the Mediterranean low. Mountain weather today: above the high fog the sun is shining, but ice crystals can still form in the deep cold. Caution is urged towards the perils of freezing in backcountry touring sports. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 19 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 22 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe