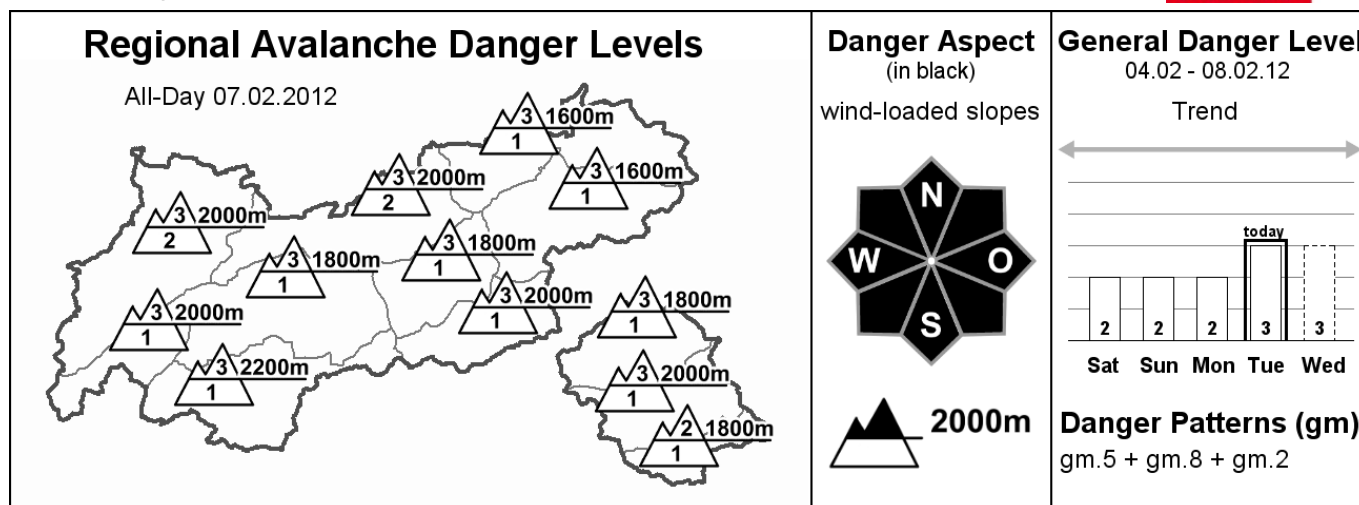


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 07.02.2012, at 07:30



Above the treeline, avalanche danger is considerable widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has risen significantly due to the influence of the wind, above the treeline the danger level is now considerable far and wide. Below that altitude, the danger level is often low, although it depends on the local wind influence over the last few days. The major peril stems from fresh, extremely trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations which occur frequently in ridgeline areas in southeastern to southern to northwestern aspects and in steep gullies and bowls in all aspects. Caution: even hard, wind-compacted snowdrift can be easily disturbed. With experience in evaluating avalanche hazards, these danger zones can be easily recognized, provided the visibility is good. Further, caution is still required towards full depth snowslides which, in spite of the icy temperatures, can be released on steep, grassy slopes. Such slides can reach medium size, particularly in the regions of North Tirol where the snow is deepest.

SNOW LAYERING

After being deprived for a longish period, southern East Tirol has finally received snowfall, about 20 cm. In remaining Tirol, there was only a small bit of new fallen snow. In addition, the wind has intensified throughout Tirol, which brings about the transport both of the fresh fallen snow and the cold, generally loose surface snow. Increasingly, snowdrift is accumulating which is highly prone to triggering. This is partly because surface hoar has formed atop the old snowpack and partly because the low temperatures have transformed the surface snow to faceted crystals. Snowpack analysis, together with reports from skiers and freeriders, confirm that the bonding of the snowdrift to the old snowpack is very poor.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies in the path of moist, cold air masses which will traverse the land from the east today. Tomorrow, Wednesday, it will turn drier and milder, especially in the mountains. Between Thursday and Friday, another bout of cold will strike. Mountain weather today: fog and clouds impede visibility. In addition, intermittent, light snowfall is anticipated. Windows of sunshine are most likely between the Lechtal Alps and the Silvretta, as well as on the glaciers west of the Brenner. The temperatures will be milder, but in high alpine regions the wind will intensify, thus making it seem colder. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 22 and minus 15 degrees, rising further on Tuesday night; at 3000 m: between minus 20 and minus 12 degrees. Moderate easterly winds in high alpine regions; in East Tirol, the winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are the primary hazard

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe