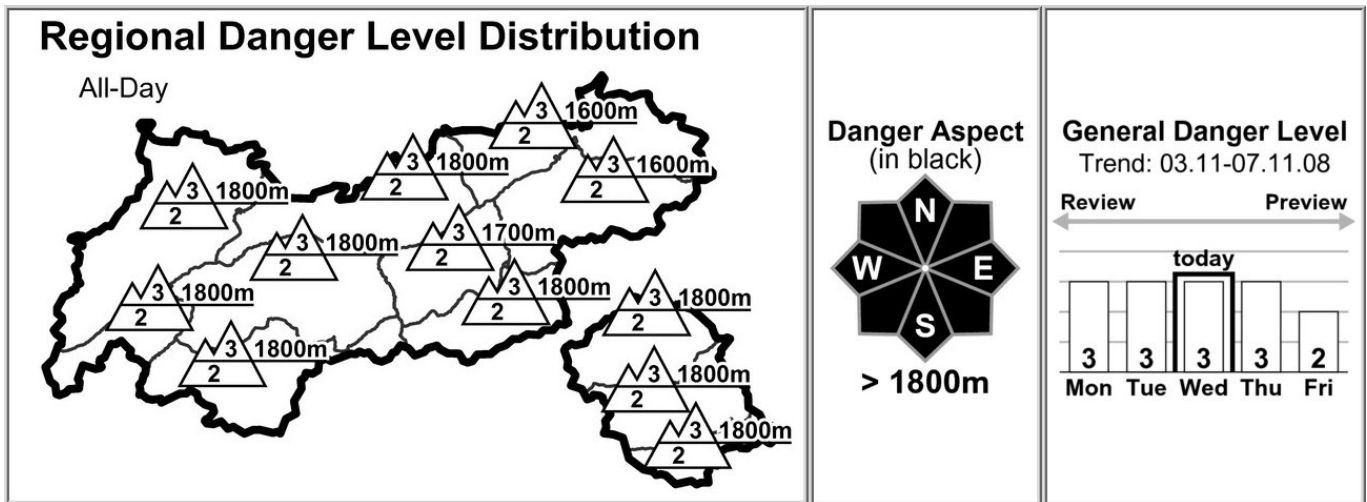


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 05.11.2008, at 07:30



AVALANCHE DANGER

A treacherous avalanche situation currently prevails which is strongly graduated according to altitude. Below the treeline, that is, in all those places where the winds of recent days had no great effect, moderate danger generally prevails. Above the treeline, on the other hand, the avalanche danger is considerable widespread. The cause for this lies in the new snowdrift accumulations which have formed in all aspects over the last few, highly stormy days. Thus, triggering an avalanche on steep slopes is generally possible even through minimum additional loading. Yesterday this proneness to triggering was corroborated to great effect by a number of avalanches. Apart from the new snowdrift, great caution must also be exercised, especially in inneralpine regions and in southern East Tyrol on northwest to north to east facing very steep slopes, towards the increased likelihood of avalanches being triggered in the old snowpack between approximately 1800 m and 2400 m. In general, extensive experience in assessing avalanche danger is imperative for backcountry skiers and freeriders in the present situation.

SNOW LAYERING

In East Tyrol there has been about 10 cm of snow since yesterday. North Tyrol has remained more or less without precipitation thus far. The enormous influence of the wind in the last few days is the major hazard in the current situation, it having led to extensive drifting. Snowdrift on steep, sunny slopes is usually deposited on a hard old snowpack surface; in the other aspects on a rather thin and loosely packed layer of new snow from the weekend. Thus, the bonding of this snowdrift with the old snowpack is generally very poor. In addition, a loose layer of depth hoar, particularly in the Ötztal and Stubai Alps, over the Zillertal and southern Tux Alps and in southern East Tyrol, also remains a source of danger.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

The mountain summits on the southern flank of the Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge are predominantly cloaked in fog, moreover, it is snowing. On the northern flank of the Alps, the foehn winds are still holding back the fog. There has been about 10 cm of new snow from this precipitation front, in the Carnic Alps up to 20 cm. Temperatures at 2000 m are minus 3 degrees, at 3000 m minus 11 degrees. Stormy southerly winds still prevail, which will become weaker tonight and shift to northwesterly during the night.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

An ongoing treacherous situation for backcountry skiers and freeriders.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe