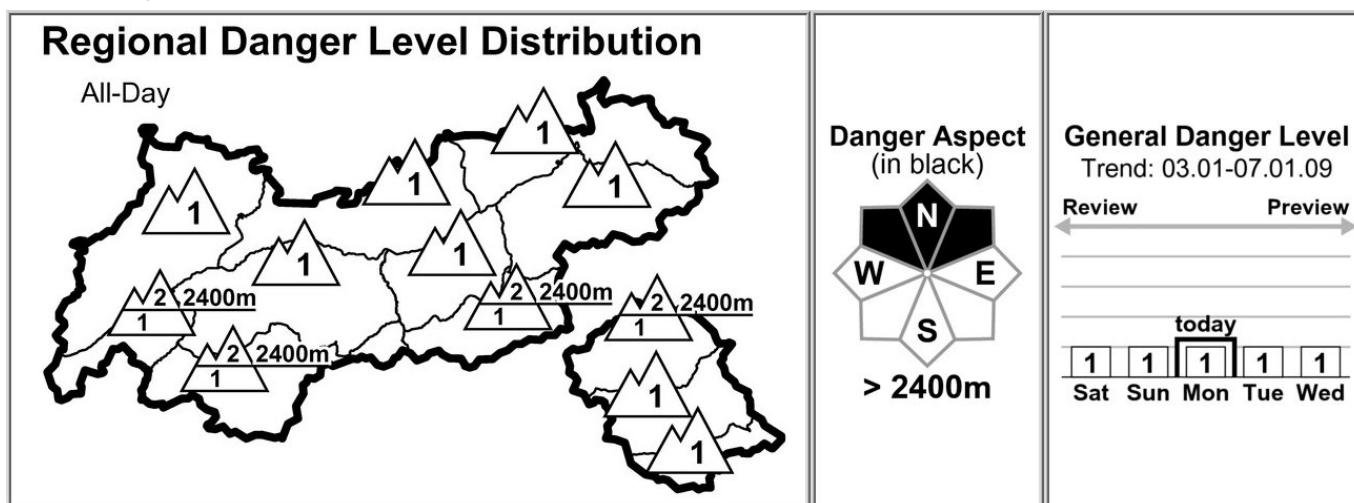


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 05.01.2009, at 07:30



PREDOMINANTLY FAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, favourable conditions prevail by and large, with generally low avalanche danger. Only in the Silvretta, the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, the Zillertal Alps and along the East Tyrolean Tauern ridge is the danger moderate above approximately 2400 m. Avalanche prone locations are still to be found on very steep northwest to north to northeast facing slopes and areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2000 m, often in the form of small sized snowdrift accumulations. The frequency of avalanche prone locations rises with increasing altitude. A slab avalanche can currently be most easily triggered in transition areas from little to lots of snow, but usually only by large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is well settled and consolidated in general, hardly any noteworthy weak layers are evident. The continuing pleasant wintery weather conditions with low temperatures also aid the faceting of the snowpack, which is becoming increasingly loosely packed and losing its tensions. The snow surface is often heavily influenced by winds, with hard or breakable crusts. Isolated potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are still to be found in the uppermost layers as wind crusts or melt-freeze crusts above approximately 2000 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: cold, arctic air masses are approaching from the north. They will reach the Alps on Monday night, but bring next to no precipitation. On Tuesday and Wednesday the air current will shift to southwesterly and the flow of cold air will be cut off, but temperatures will remain low in the valleys for the rest of the week. Mountain weather today: the morning hours will be full of sunshine along the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps in particular. In the Northern Alps, the first cloudbanks will appear. During the afternoon, cloudiness will dominate generally, though mostly above the altitude of the summits, amid diffuse visibility. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 8 and minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. The westerly winds will be strong at times in the Northern Alps, on the southern flank of the Alps they will be moderate.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing favourable touring conditions.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe