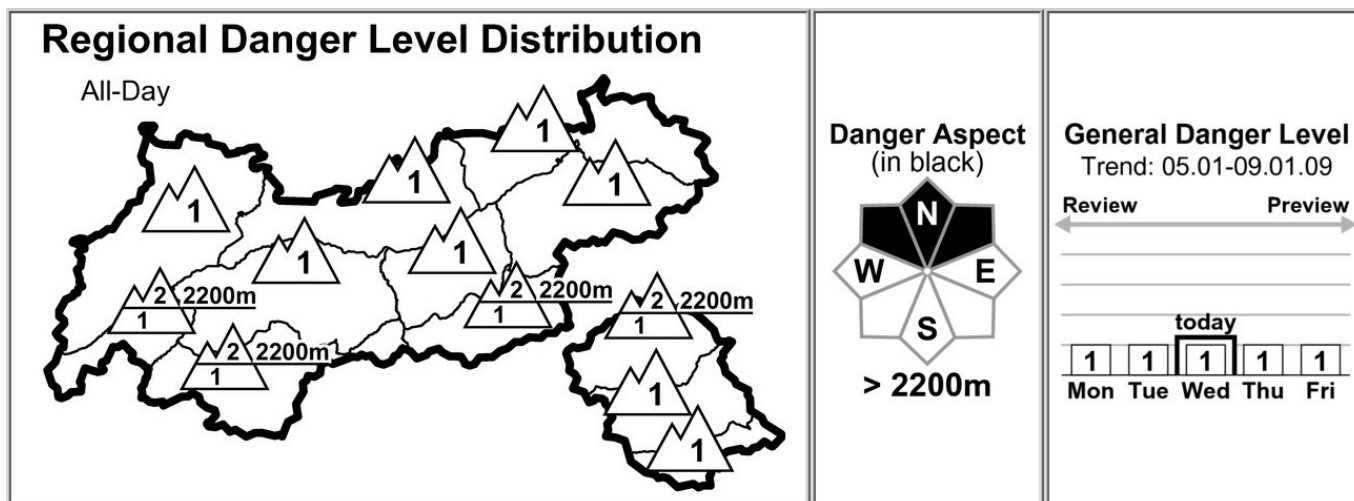


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 07.01.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS WITH LOW AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, favourable conditions prevail widespread, amid low avalanche danger. The touring regions along the Main Alpine Ridge including the Silvretta, southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, Zillertal Alps and East Tyrolean Tauern ridge, provide an exception to the rule, where the avalanche danger above approximately 2200 m is moderate in places. The major hazard stems from freshly formed as well as older snowdrift accumulations. They are to be found on very steep northwest to north to northeast facing slopes and areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2200 m. However, unleashing a slab avalanche is usually only possible through large additional loading, e.g. when an entire group of backcountry skiers or freeriders enter a slope simultaneously.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been a bit of fresh snow in isolated cases, but this has had next to no influence on the avalanche situation. The snow surface is highly varied: in wind protected areas and below the treeline there is still loosely packed, powdery snow. In areas exposed to winds, the surface is often blown free or hardened, often with melt freeze crusts in between. On sunny slopes a thin crust is often evident. The snow layering is favourable far and wide, the snowpack has settled and consolidated well and few tensions are evident inside it. The ongoing deep winter temperatures have improved the faceting of the snow crystals, making them loose and well edged.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: on the one hand, dry air masses are being supplied to the Alps from Germany; on the other, a low pressure front over the western Mediterranean is supplying moist air to the southern flank of the Alps. Mountain weather today: on the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, the moist southerly airstream will bring clouds, while on the northern flank of the Alps cold and sunny wintry weather conditions will continue. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 12 and minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Moderate easterly winds, over the high peaks the winds will be southwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Continuing low avalanche danger widespread

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe