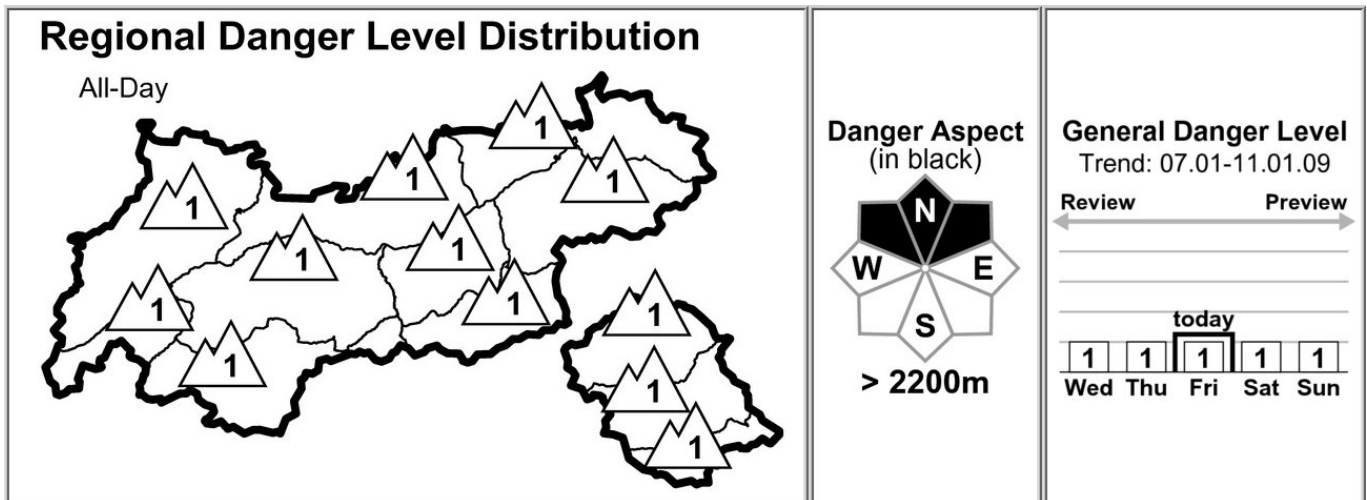


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 09.01.2009, at 07:30



SAFE TOURING CONDITIONS WIDESPREAD, LOW AVALANCHE DANGER

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's touring regions, safe conditions amid low avalanche danger currently prevail. Isolated avalanche prone locations are still to be found on very steep northwest to north to northeast facing slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines, where there are still trigger sensitive, small sized snowdrift accumulations. Slab avalanches can generally be triggered only by large additional loading, e.g. when a group of backcountry skiers or freeriders enters a slope simultaneously.

SNOW LAYERING

The hallmark of the snowpack at the moment is its lack of tensions. For this benefit, the wintery cold temperatures are responsible, which aids the faceting of the snow crystals, making them sharply edged and loose, further decreasing the inner tensions of the snowpack. The quality of the surface is highly variable. In wind protected, shady zones there is still dry, loosely packed powder snow. Where the influence of the wind is apparent, the surface is often brushed clear or hardened, in places with melt-freeze crust. On sunny slopes there is often a thin melt freeze crust.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: a powerful high pressure front stretches from the Black Sea over Tyrol all the way to Great Britain. The air is extremely dry and somewhat milder at high altitudes. In the valleys, on the other hand, the cold air clings to the land. Mountain weather today: superb skiing weather. From the very start of the day there will be pure, unimpeded sunshine, outstanding visibility and it will be a bit warmer than in recent days. Primarily at altitudes between 1000 and 1500 m, temperatures might even rise slightly above freezing. Temperatures at 2000 m: between minus 5 and minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Predominantly light southerly winds will prevail.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing favourable conditions amid low avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe