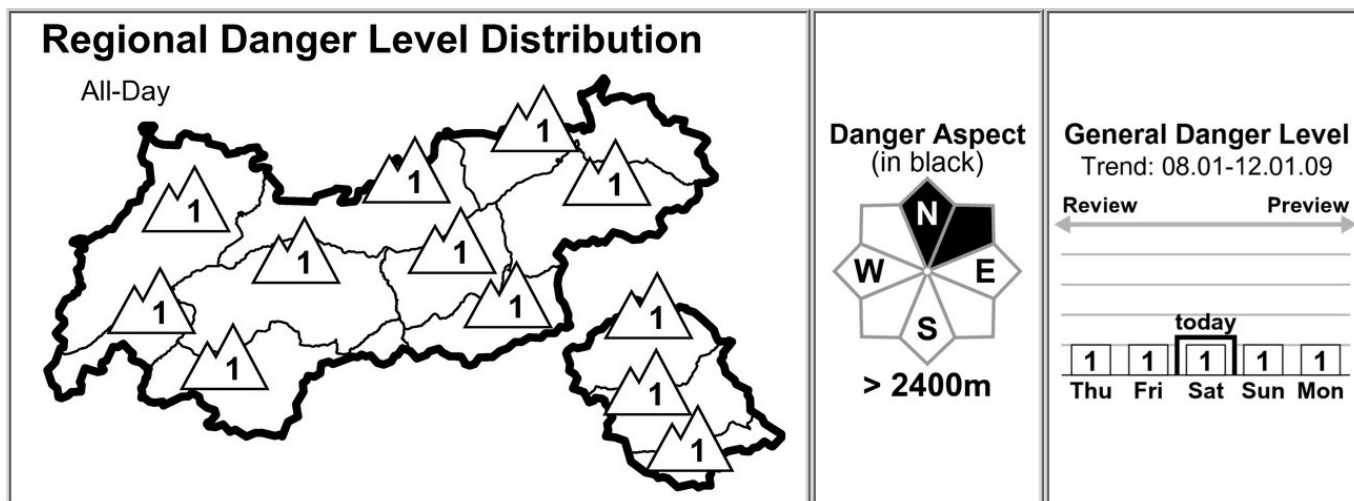


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 10.01.2009, at 07:30



SAFE TOURING CONDITIONS, LOW AVALANCHE DANGER

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's touring regions, favourable and safe conditions currently prevail, amid low avalanche danger. Isolated avalanche prone locations are still to be found in very steep northwest to north to northeast facing slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2400 m. Any small sized snowdrift accumulations which might still exist can only be triggered as slab avalanches by large additional loading, e.g. when an entire group of backcountry skiers or freeriders enter a slope simultaneously.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is now stable far and wide, with little evidence of inner tension, a direct consequence of the ongoing low temperatures and wintery weather conditions. The low temperatures improve the faceting of the snow crystals, which then grow, become edged and looser. This process leads to a decrease in tensions inside the snowpack. The snow surface is now quite variable, even across small areas: in wind protected zones there is quite loosely packed, dry powder snow, whereas in wind exposed zones the surface is brushed free or hardened in places, often with a melt freeze crust. On sunny slopes, there is often a brittle melt freeze crust.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: the determining high pressure front over Central Europe is extremely stable, it will move in an easterly direction only very slowly. Thus, the air masses will remain dry, although in the valleys the cold air which has collected will cling to the land. Mountain weather today: splendid skiing and touring conditions, with brilliant sunshine and outstanding visibility above the inversion layer in the atmosphere. Furthermore, at higher altitudes the temperatures are relatively mild, even above freezing between 1000 m and 1900 m. Temperatures at 2000 m: between minus 4 and 0 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Light winds from varying directions will prevail.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Continuing favourable conditions with low avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe