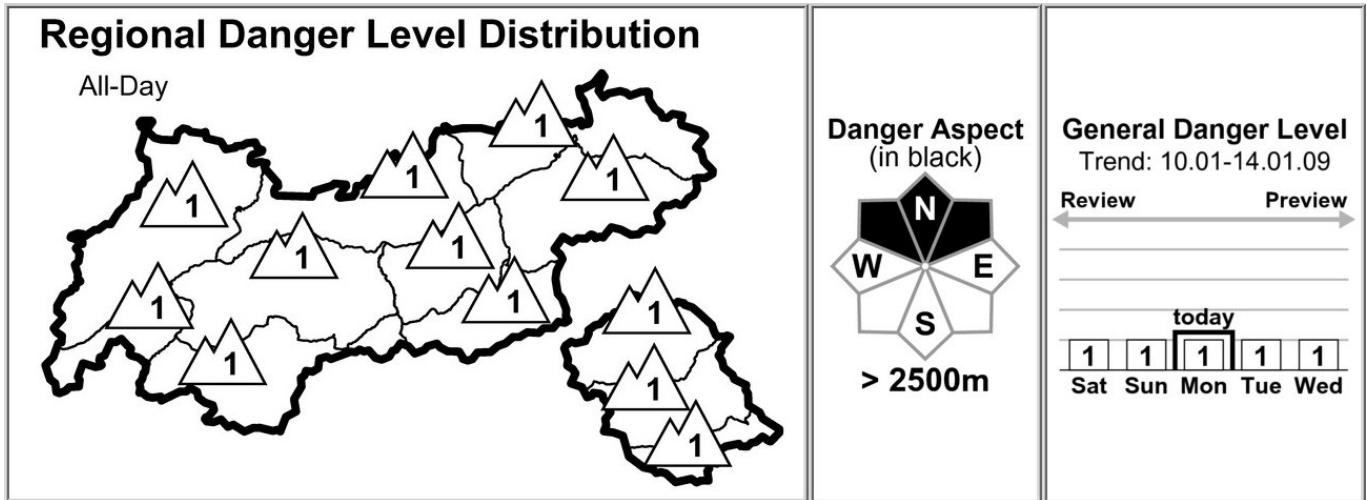


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 12.01.2009, at 07:30



LOW AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD. BEWARE SMALL SNOWDRIFT IN HIGH ALPINE REGIONS.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Throughout Tyrol, favourable touring conditions continue to prevail, with low avalanche danger. Quite isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found on extremely steep, shady slopes above approximately 2500 m, where very small, surface-near snowdrift accumulations can be triggered by large additional loading in particular. Such danger spots are easy to recognize. The hazards of falling outweigh those of being buried in snow. Increasingly strong winds, particularly in those regions exposed to foehn influence, will lead to new snowdrift formations which could prove to be prone to triggering. Isolated full depth snowslides can still be expected on very steep, grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack continues to be low in tensions. Cohesive, area wide bed surfaces are rare. Only the freshly drifted areas can be poorly bonded with the generally faceted surface. In high alpine regions on shady slopes there is a layer of depth hoar from early winter which could, in isolated cases, be unleashed. The surface evidences surface hoar at its lower levels and, even at higher altitudes, loosely packed, faceted crystals. Up to about 2000 m, moreover, there are thin melt-freeze crusts embedded in the uppermost snowpack. With increasing altitude, the joys of skiing are somewhat impeded by wind crusts, but in wind protected areas there is still sufficient loosely packed snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: to begin with, the high pressure zone will dominate the weather which stretches from the Atlantic all the way to the Black Sea. On Wednesday, a weak disturbance will brush Tyrol, after which another intermediate high will follow. As of this coming weekend, turbulent conditions will arise. Mountain weather today: a dream come true for skiers and freeriders, with brilliant sunshine, superb visibility above the inversion in the valleys and ongoing pleasant temperatures for the season. Light to moderate southerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 5 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable touring conditions continue. The sole problem: beware freshly drifted slopes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe