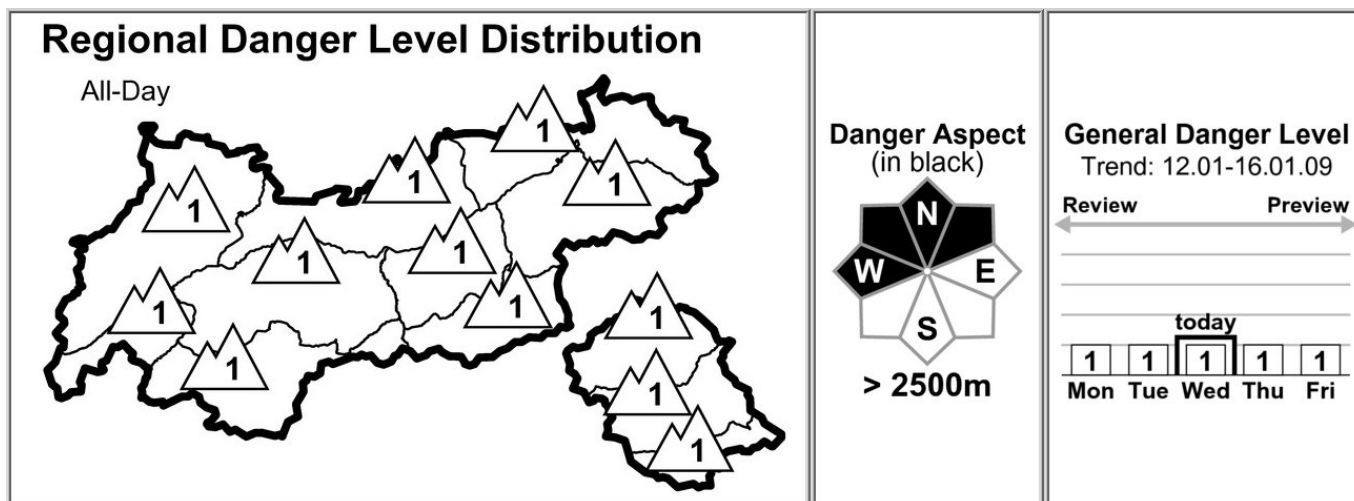


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 14.01.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS CONTINUE UNCHANGED, DESPITE NEW SNOW IN SOUTHERN REGIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

Good touring conditions continue to reign throughout Tyrol, with generally low avalanche danger. This also applies to East Tyrol, where it has been snowing since the early hours of Wednesday, for the simple reason that there is nearly no wind. Avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2500 m on very steep, shady slopes adjacent to ridge lines in particular. Very small sized older snowdrift masses, in isolated cases also hard wind crusts lodged atop a hollow fundament, can be unleashed primarily by large additional loading. In East Tyrol in high altitude areas adjacent to ridge lines, moreover, small, the triggering of freshly formed snowdrift accumulations cannot be ruled out. The hazards of falling currently outweigh those of being buried in snow. In very isolated cases, full depth snowslides are still possible on steep, grassy hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

Since the early hours of the night it has been snowing in East Tyrol. By this evening, a total of 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated. The new snow is for the most part loosely packed and being deposited atop the old snow surface, causing no problems for backcountry skiers and freeriders. Throughout Tyrol, except in shady, high alpine regions, there are no significant bed surfaces for avalanches inside the snowpack. Above 3000 m there is a layer of depth hoar near the ground from early winter, which can be disturbed only in exceptional cases in transitions from little to lots of snow. The snowpack is low in tensions everywhere, consisting of loosely packed snow crystals far and wide. Near the surface up to about 2000 m, thin melt-freeze crusts are embedded. With increasing altitude, increasingly frequent wind crusts are evident, with varying capacity to bear loads. In especially exposed areas there are layers of depth hoar lodged beneath those crusts, which can increase the likelihood of triggering in isolated cases.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: a low pressure front over Italy will supply clouds and some precipitation to East Tyrol in particular. At the same time, a weak cold front is approaching from the west, which will bring inconsequential show showers during Wednesday night, but quickly sweep by. Thereafter, an intermediate high pressure front will prevail. Mountain weather today: diffuse light due to clouds, the sun will be weak at best over the northern Alps, but it will remain dry to begin with. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps, on the other hand, moderate snowfall is expected this morning, followed by snowfall in the central Alps in the course of the day, although the amounts of snowfall will not be noteworthy. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 to minus 11 degrees. Light northeasterly winds will prevail.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The favourable avalanche situation will continue, amid generally low avalanche danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe