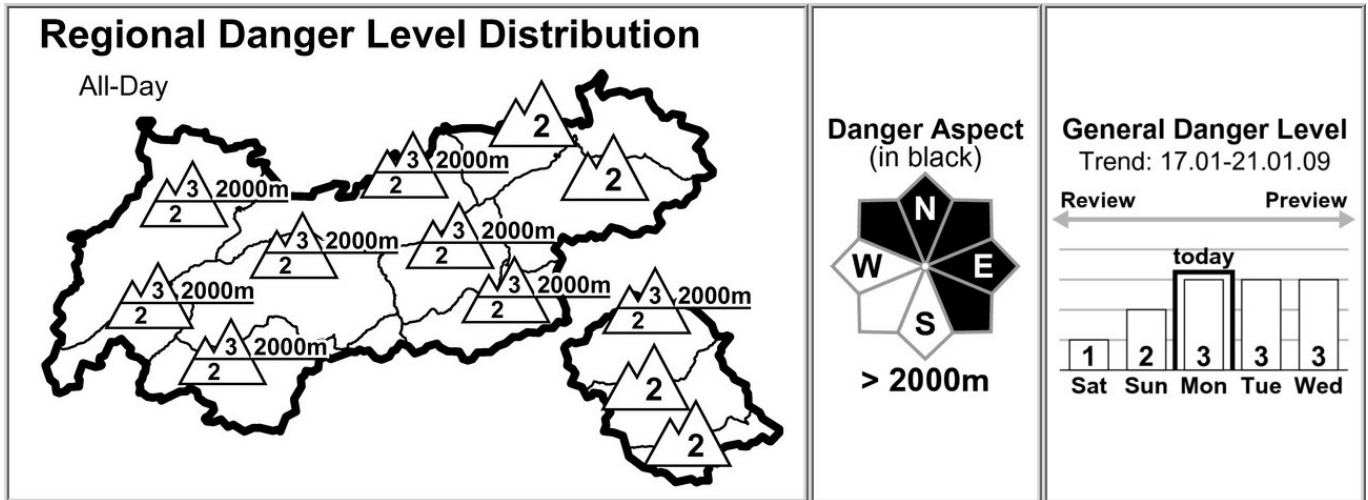


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 19.01.2009, at 07:30



ESCALATING AVALANCHE DANGER AMID STORMY SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS

AVALANCHE DANGER

New snow and wind are escalating the general avalanche danger, which has now reached the level "considerable" widespread above approximately 2000 m. The major hazard stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations located primarily on steep northwest to north to southeast facing slopes. Drifted gullies and bowls and areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects must be critically assessed. Even minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider, is sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. The frequency of danger spots increases with rising altitude. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche dangers is now required for backcountry tours.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 5 to 10 cm of new snow widespread in North and East Tyrol above approximately 1000 m. The high altitude westerly to southwesterly winds were strong, across the northern Alps and in the regions exposed to foehn winds they reached storm strength. The winds were responsible for transporting both the new snow and the loosely packed old snow, and new snowdrift accumulations have formed. New snow and snowdrift cover over a predominantly loosely packed old snowpack with highly varied surfaces. Overall, the bonding of the snowdrift with the old snowpack is poor, snowdrift masses are prone to triggering and can be easily unleashed.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: in the Alps a southwesterly to westerly airstream over the next few days will provide highly variable and windy weather conditions. Mountain weather today: initially, the southerly foehn winds will dominate. In the mountains, adequate visibility to begin with, during the afternoon on the southern flank of the Alps, fog and snowfall will set in which will spread to the Upper Inn Valley on Monday night. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 7 and minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: between minus 13 and minus 7 degrees. Strong to stormy southwesterly to westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New snow and winds will create considerable avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe