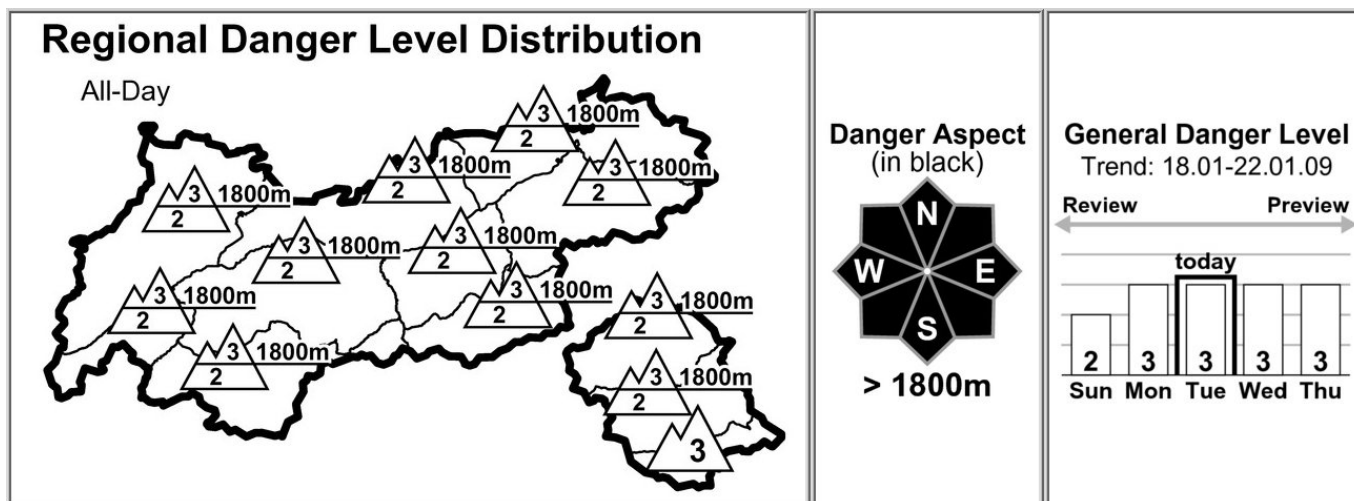


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 20.01.2009, at 07:30



UNFAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS AMID CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD

AVALANCHE DANGER

New snow and strong to stormy winds are supplying unfavourable touring conditions to Tyrol. The avalanche danger is considerable widespread. Caution is urged towards freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations before all else, which are now being covered over by new snow, making them difficult to recognize in open terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Caution is also urged towards snowdrifted gullies and bowls, as well as areas adjacent to ridge lines. A slab avalanche can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Isolated natural avalanches can be expected in southern East Tyrol in particular.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night it began to snow from the west and in southern East Tyrol, but rarely was there more than 10 cm. Strong to stormy southwesterly to westerly winds rose at high altitude, leading in high alpine regions to widespread snowdrift accumulations. Not only fresh snowfall, but also loosely packed old snow was transported. The new fallen snow and snowdrift now blanket an old snowpack which is often quite loosely packed, with generally inadequate bonding, so that avalanches can be triggered relatively easily. In inneralpine touring regions in particular, there are also additional trigger sensitive layers embedded in the old snowpack which are potential bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: the cold front of a low pressure zone over Scotland has reached western Austria. Mountain weather today: in the mountains of the Upper Inn Valley and on the southern flank of the Alps in South and East Tyrol, fog and snowfall. During the day, the precipitation will spread to the mountains of the Lower Inn Valley. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds will prevail, at high altitudes the winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Escalating avalanche danger, amid ongoing heavy snowfall, in southern East Tyrol in particular.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe