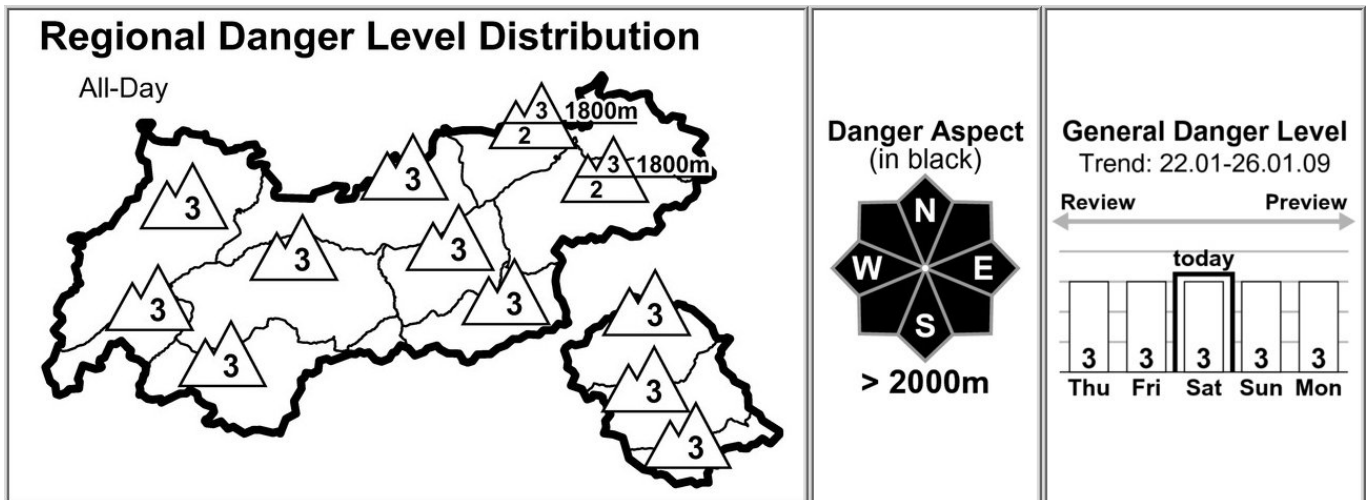


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 24.01.2009, at 07:30



A TENSE AVALANCHE SITUATION, CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER DOMINATES

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tyrol's touring regions remains tense, the danger continues at the general level of considerable. The major hazard stems from the ever new snowdrift accumulations of last week's precipitation, which are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, primarily above approximately 2000 m. A slab avalanche can still be triggered by minimum additional loading, including the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs make experience in the assessment of the avalanche situation absolutely essential. Isolated natural avalanches are also possible, which could even endanger exposed parts of transportation routes.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10 to 15 cm of new snow widespread in North and East Tyrol, in isolated cases there was somewhat more. In low lying areas it rained. Strong to stormy southerly winds prevailed at high altitudes, which in turn created new snowdrift accumulations far and wide. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations thus blanket an old snowpack whose surface is often composed of faceted, loosely packed snow crystals. The bonding of new snow to old is poor, snowdrift masses are prone to triggering and can easily be unleashed. Particularly in the inneralpine regions, avalanches can fracture down to the lowermost layers of the snowpack and thereby attain large size.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: a low pressure zone extending from the Gulf of Biscay towards the Adriatic Sea is only brushing the edge of Tyrol. Tomorrow an intermediate high will dominate. On Tuesday and Wednesday, a low pressure front with its centre over Italy will bring a bit of snowfall. Mountain weather today: the Lower Inn Valley will have the most sunshine, although cloudbanks will appear above the summits in the course of the day. Further west, the clouds will be dense in places. On the southern flank of the Alps as well, clouds will move in during the day, and a few snowflakes are possible in the afternoon between the Ortler and the Carnic Alps. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Temperatures at 2000 m: between minus 9 and minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: between minus 16 and minus 11 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing considerable avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe