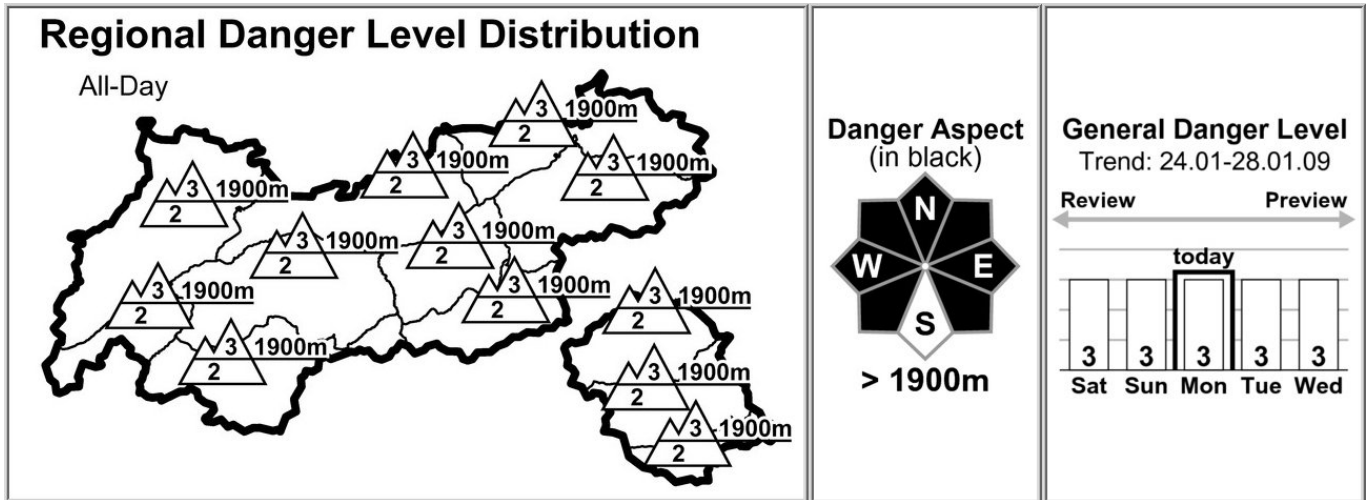


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 26.01.2009, at 07:30



ABOVE APPROXIMATELY 1900 M, CONSIDERABLE DANGER. GENERALLY UNFAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS.

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has now receded slightly, but above approximately 1900 m it is still considerable widespread. The snowpack's proneness to triggering was made quite clear over the weekend, as numerous avalanches involving people were unleashed. Currently, southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes are most hazardous, along with areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects, above about 1900 m. The new snow from last Tuesday and the snowdrift masses which formed on Friday can still be triggered even by the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. The overall situation is quite treacherous, since it is so difficult to recognize the danger spots. Conditions in terrain which has been in continual use over the course of the winter are more favourable.

SNOW LAYERING

In all the avalanches which have been triggered over the last few days, the major element was the layer of faceted crystals which formed over the long period of low temperatures, which provided the bed surface for triggering avalanches. In addition, the loosely packed surface from the snowfall of 20.1 also supplied a bed surface. This layer is blanketed over by snowdrift from Friday. Snow layering analysis shows that the bonding of old to new snow is slowly improving, but it is still so trigger-sensitive that avalanches can easily be unleashed by minimum additional loading. Whumpung sounds of the snow settling in terrain which is little used, especially above 2000 m, are clear indicators of poor bonding. On very steep south facing slopes, a thick melt freeze crust has formed since 20.1 which has improved conditions in those places.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: the intermediate high pressure front is weakening, but still dominates across Tyrol today. By tomorrow, a Mediterranean low will reach us, providing cloudiness and new snow on Tuesday and Wednesday. Mountain weather today: sunshine in all mountain regions of North Tyrol. The cloudbanks approaching from the southwest during the day are far higher than the summits and will not impede visibility. However, on the southern flank of the Alps, visibility is poorer and sunshine will be scarce. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Generally light southerly to southwesterly winds, only in areas subject to foehn influence will they be strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will diminish only gradually.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe