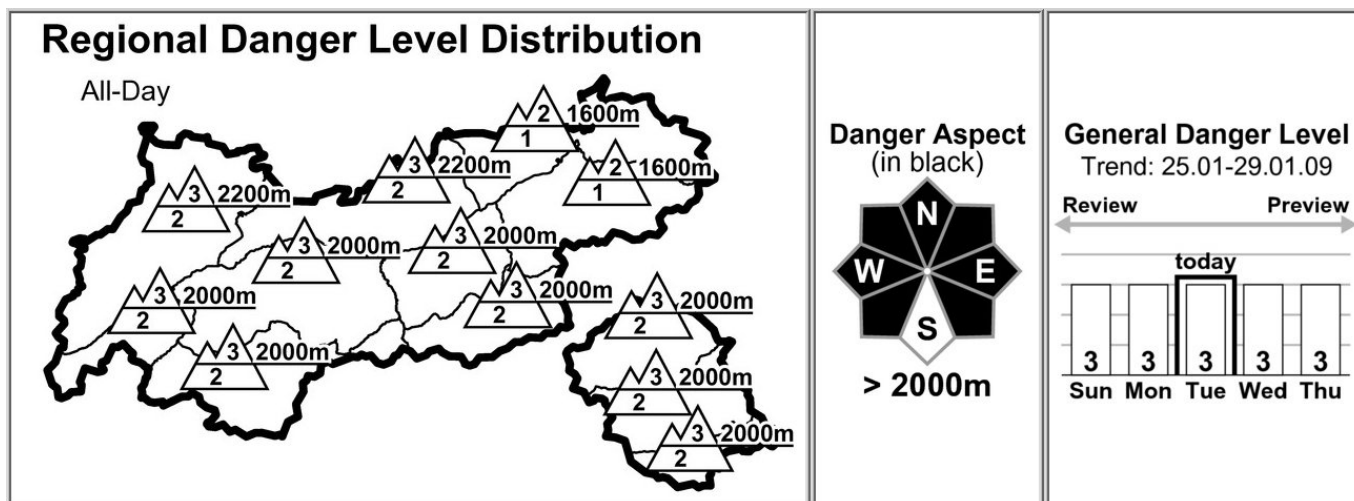


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 27.01.2009, at 07:30



ABOVE APPROXIMATELY 2000 M, CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER IN GENERAL

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is dependent on altitude. Above approximately 2000 m considerable danger prevails generally, below that altitude the danger is moderate. The conditions in northeastern regions, including the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and the Kitzbühel Alps, are more favourable; here the danger below 1600 m is low, above 1600 m it is moderate. Avalanche prone locations lie in the snowdrift accumulations which formed during the snowfall last week and on Friday. Particularly on very steep southwest to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 2000 m, slab avalanches can still be triggered by minimum additional loading. Shady, sparsely vegetated forest areas near the treeline should also be cautiously assessed. All in all, the situation is unchanged: experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards is essential, together with overall caution. The conditions in areas which are heavily used and on very steep south facing slopes are more favourable.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is settling and consolidating apace, yet still manifests two distinctly weak layers which can provide bed surfaces for slab avalanches. First, there is a loosely packed, faceted layer of snow crystals which formed during the cold weather period. Second, there is in North Tyrol above the treeline up to approximately 2800 m a thin ice crust which formed last Wednesday. Snowpack analysis has shown that the bonding of old snowpack to new snow or to snowdrift is generally inadequate. With increasing altitude, the proneness to triggering tends to increase. The snowpack at higher altitudes is also subject to greater wind influence.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: a low over Italy has spread to Tyrol from the south. As this front moves eastward, the airstream will shift to northeasterly, into which moderately moist and cold air masses will flow. Mountain weather: fog will often impede the visibility and intermittent snowfall is anticipated, especially in the Carnic Alps to begin with. During the day the snowfall will become more widespread towards the north, first along the Zillertal main ridge, then later along the northern Limestone Alps. By tomorrow morning, 10 to 15 cm of new snow is expected. Elsewhere, there will be only snow flurries. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will gradually subside.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe