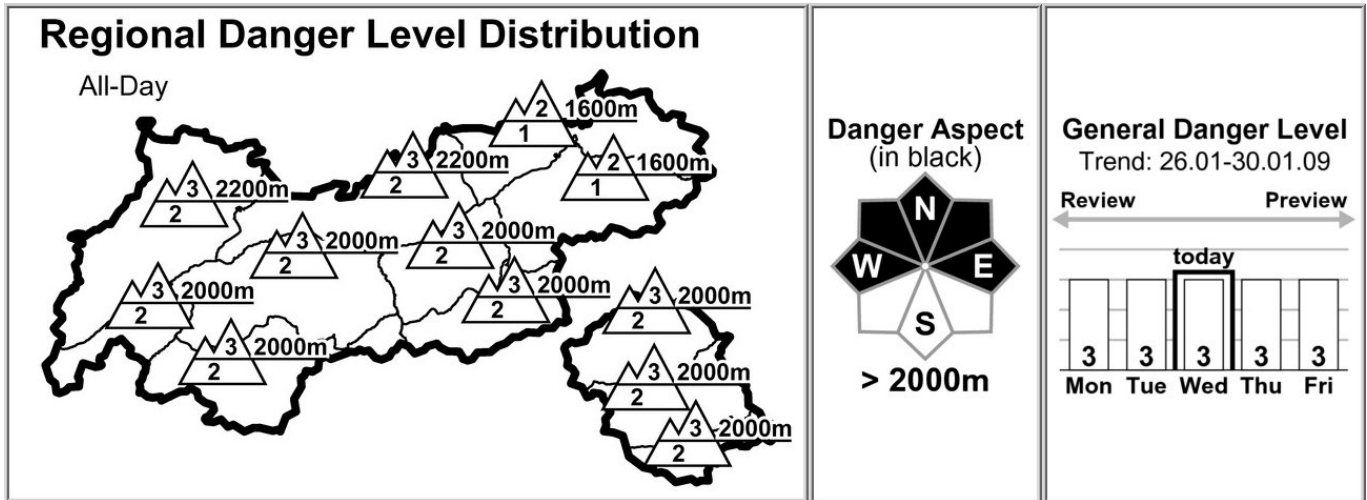


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 28.01.2009, at 07:30



SITUATION UNCHANGED: GENERALLY CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER ABOVE APPROXIMATELY 2000 M

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above 2000 m considerable avalanche danger prevails widespread. Below that altitude, the danger is moderate. Conditions in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps are more favourable, where below 1600 m the danger is low, above that altitude, moderate. In the northernmost regions of North Tyrol, it is only above 2200 m that the danger level is considerable. The greatest caution must be exercised in shady, sparsely vegetated, steep forest areas near the treeline; in wind protected, shady and rarely skied, steep bowls; and in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, where minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. Steep areas adjacent to ridge lines require caution in all aspects, but particularly on west to north to east facing slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been a bit of new snow in Tyrol, most of which fell in East Tyrol and in the southern Ötztal Alps: up to 10 cm. Elsewhere there was generally 5 cm. The new snow has rendered the older snowdrift accumulations from 20.01 and 23.01 invisible, making the assessment of avalanche danger far more difficult. The most treacherous potential bed surface for avalanches is currently the layer of faceted snow crystals which took shape in the long cold weather period and up to an altitude of about 2200 m is usually covered by a thin melt-freeze crust. Settling, "whumping" sounds in terrain which is little used are indicators of increased proneness to triggering. The snow layering on steep, south facing slopes is better, since several stabilising melt-freeze crusts are embedded in the snowpack there.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: the disturbance resulting from a Mediterranean low extends from eastern regions as far as the Lower Inn Valley. In coming days, a high pressure front will dominate weather conditions in Tyrol, but to begin with, temperatures will remain wintery due to the northeasterly airstream. Mountain weather today: the peaks will be shrouded in dense fog today. From the Karwendel to the Wilder Kaiser and from the Brenner to Gerlos, light snowfall is anticipated until afternoon, elsewhere it will remain dry. From the Lechtal over the Ötztal Alps to the Ortler, the visibility will steadily improve over the course of the day. Very low temperatures in the mountains. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds which can be quite brisk towards the Lower Inn Valley.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger continues to depend on altitude: considerable danger above approximately 2000 m in general.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe