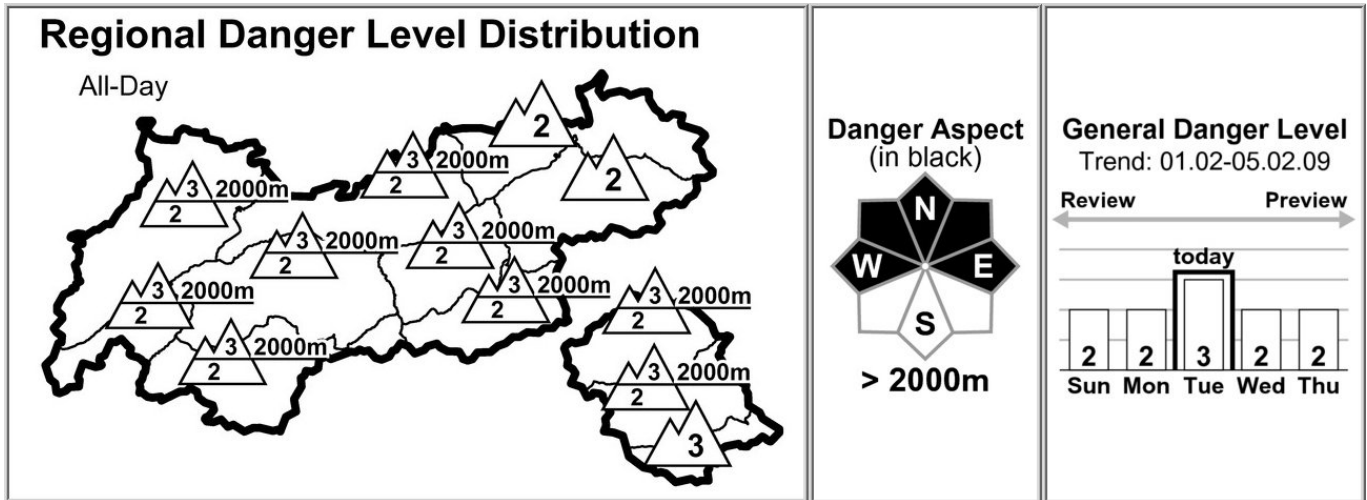


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 03.02.2009, at 07:30



STORMY SOUTHERLY FOEHN WINDS CREATE CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's touring regions has increased: above approximately 2000 m, it is now considerable widespread. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes in particular, and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects in general. Transitions from areas blown free of snow to snowdrifted gullies and bowls must also be assessed critically. In these places a slab avalanche can be triggered even by the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Primarily below about 1800 m, isolated natural avalanches are also possible.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10 to 15 cm of new snow in East Tyrol and along the Main Alpine Ridge; in the Carnic Alps there was 25 to 30 cm. Strong to stormy southerly winds prevail, leading primarily in high alpine regions and in those regions typically subject to foehn influence to massive snowdrift accumulations. New fallen snow often blankets a loosely packed old snowpack, leaving the bonding between the two rather poor and making it prone to triggereing. In low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes, the snowpack has forfeited much of its firmness due to the foehn winds and yesterday's higher temperatures.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the Alps lie at the forefront of a strong low pressure zone above England, in the grip of a southerly airstream which has now weakened slightly. Through this current, extremely mild, yet also rather dry air masses are being supplied to Tyrol. Mountain weather today: the winds have tapered off significantly, and some sunshine is expected on the northern flank of the Alps. The cloudbanks will generally remain at altitudes above the summits. The barrier clouds clinging to the Main Alpine Ridge are weakening. On the southern flank of the Alps, the snow showers from the west are gradually slackening off. It is unseasonably mild. Temperatures at 2000 m: between minus 4 and minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Moderate southerly winds, in those areas typically exposed to foehn the winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger is gradually subsiding.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe