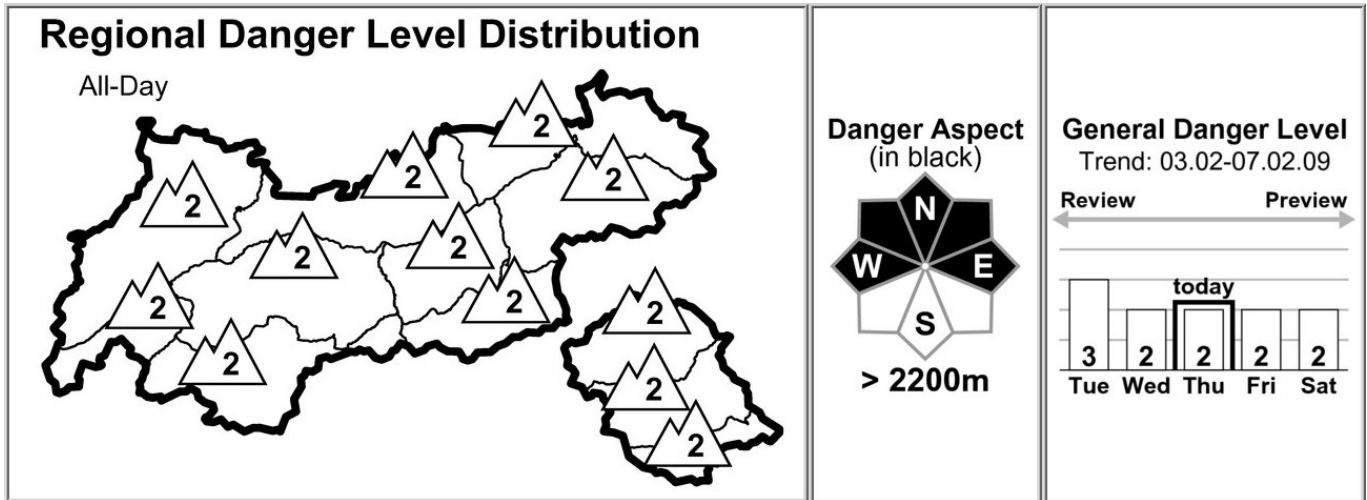


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 05.02.2009, at 07:30



MODERATE AVALANCHE DANGER GENERALLY. DANGER FROM WET SNOW AVALANCHES WILL RISE DURING THE DAY.

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's touring regions has receded another step and is now categorised widespread as moderate. Avalanche prone locations for dry slab avalanches are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. Transitions from areas of hard pressed snow or windblown areas to snowdrifted gullies and bowls must be assessed with great caution. In general, only larger additional loading will trigger an avalanche, e.g. if an entire group enters a slope simultaneously. The hazards of naturally released wet avalanches will increase in the course of the day, particularly on sun-bathed slopes below about 2400 m. Such wet avalanches could also put exposed transportation routes at risk.

SNOW LAYERING

New snow and snowdrift from the last period of precipitation have now settled and consolidated somewhat, the bonding to the generally loosely packed old snowpack has also improved. In high alpine regions, brisk to stormy southerly to southwesterly winds will give rise to new, small sized snowdrift accumulations. Caution is also urged in low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes, where the snowpack on sunny slopes in particular is losing its firmness continually through radiation and the daily warming curve.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: several low pressure zones above western Europe will place Tyrol at the center of a powerful southwesterly airstream. In southern regions it will be increasingly moist. In North Tyrol, the foehn winds will not slacken off until they are replaced by a cold front in the course of the day on Saturday. Thereafter, conditions will become unstable and temperatures will drop. Mountain weather today: brisk to stormy southerly to southwesterly foehn winds are potentially disturbing, especially in exposed areas, and will cause snowdrifting. On the other hand, sunshine will dominate on the northern flank of the Alps. From the Main Alpine Ridge and to the south, clouds will cling to the mountain flanks in a barrier effect, some fog and perhaps some snow flurries can be expected. Temperatures at 2000 m: between minus 3 and plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: between minus 10 and minus 6 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Moderate avalanche danger will continue to predominate.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe