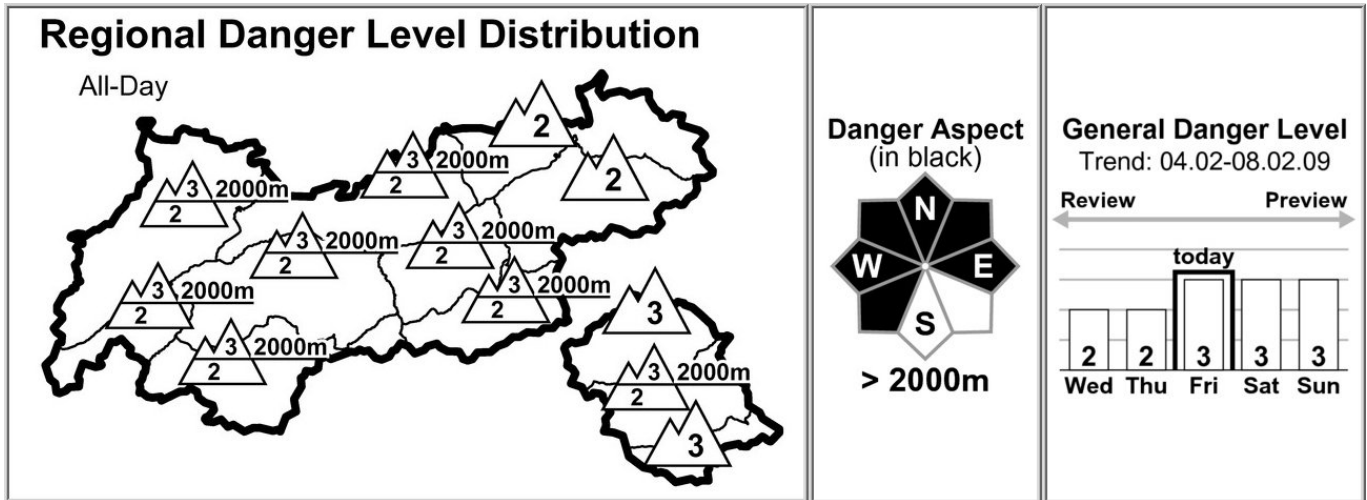


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 06.02.2009, at 07:30



STORMY SOUTHERLY FOEHN WINDS HAVE CREATED NEW SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol has escalated: above the treeline, it is now considerable widespread. The major hazard stems from the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are found far and wide above approximately 2000 m on southwest to north to southeast facing, steep, wind loaded slopes as well as in gullies and bowls. Transitions from areas with little snow to areas with lots of snow must be judged especially critically; in these spots, the snowpack tensions and trigger sensitivity are at their highest. Even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider can generally unleash a slab avalanche. Below about 2200 m, the danger of naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and moist sluffs will increase in the course of the day. These can place exposed parts of transportation routes at risk.

SNOW LAYERING

The brisk to stormy southerly to southwesterly winds yesterday have given rise to new snowdrift accumulations above the treeline in particular. Above approximately 2000 m, the snow surface is currently highly impacted by wind influence: wind blown or hard pressed surfaces lie immediately adjacent to snowdrifted slopes or deeply drifted gullies and bowls. The old snowpack has settled and consolidated well by now and is low in tensions. However, the bonding especially of freshly formed snowdrift to the old snowpack is often quite inadequate. In low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes, solar radiation and the daytime warming curve will soften the snowpack, so that particularly in the late afternoon on sun-bathed slopes it will lose some of its firmness.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a huge low pressure front is approaching from the west; but today Tyrol still is ahead of it and in the grips of a powerful southerly airstream which will bring foehn wind influence to North Tyrol and moist weather to southern regions. On the weekend, the foehn will be replaced by a cold front. Mountain weather today: yet another day with strong foehn winds in the mountains all around the Inn Valley and on the northern flank of the Alps. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, the peaks will be shrouded in barrier clouds, making local snow showers a possibility throughout the day. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be overcast and foggy all day long, with snow flurries. Most of the new snow will fall in the typical areas where clouds are halted by the southern mountain barrier. Temperatures at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds, in regions typically exposed to foehn they will be of storm strength, with windspeeds over 100 km/h.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger widespread.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe