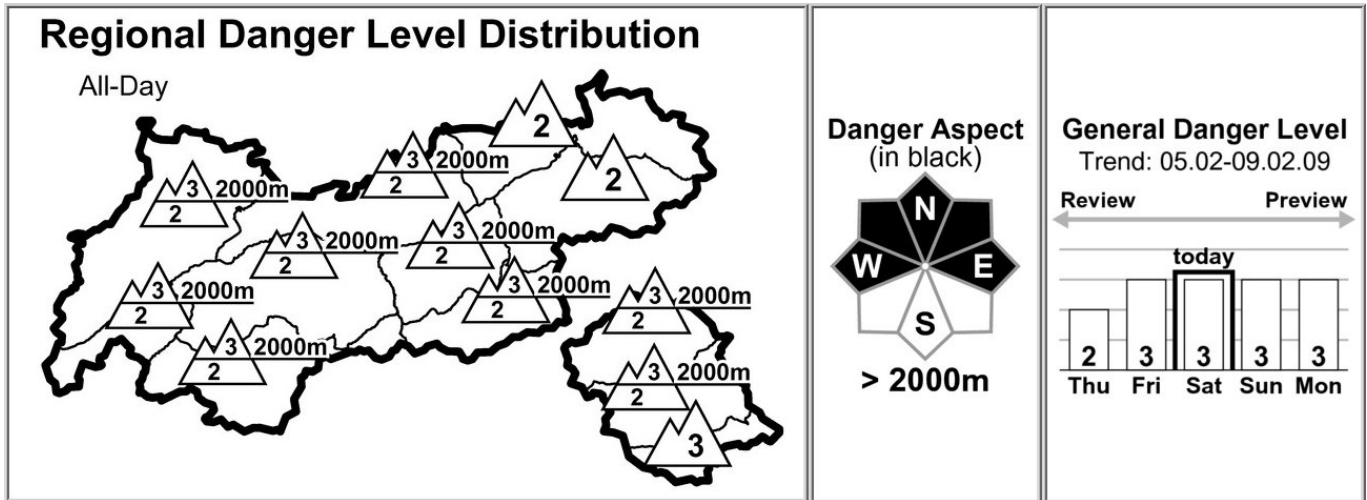


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 07.02.2009, at 07:30



CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD IN HIGH ALPINE REGIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's touring regions above the treeline is considerable, by and large. The major hazard stems from older as well as freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing, steep, wind loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m as well as drifted gullies and bowls in all aspects. Caution is also urged towards transitions from areas with little snow to areas with lots of snow, where a slab avalanche can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. In low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes, natural wet snow avalanches are still possible in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in East Tyrol and along the Main Alpine Ridge, there has been 10 to 20 cm of new snow. In addition, strong to stormy high altitude southwesterly winds were blowing, creating new snowdrift accumulations. The snow surface above the treeline has been intensely impacted by wind: snowblown or hard pressed surfaces often lie directly adjacent to deeply snowdrifted steep slopes or drifted gullies and bowls. The old snowpack has now settled well and is low in tensions, but the bonding to the freshly fallen snow and older snowdrift accumulations to the old snowpack is generally quite poor.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the low pressure zone has actually arrived, but at high altitudes the powerful southerly airstream still dominates and on the northern flank of the Alps is warding off the precipitation successfully. On Saturday night, this situation will end as the winds shift to northwesterly, bringing not only moist but particularly far colder air masses to northern regions as well. Mountain weather today: winds, clouds and, at least on the northern flank of the Alps, also intermittent sunshine. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps there will be snow flurries all day long. Most of the new snow will fall in the Carnic Alps and in the southern Dolomites; by evening there could be as much as 30 to 40 cm. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 3 and minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: between minus 6 and minus 9 degrees. Strong southerly winds at high altitudes to begin with; during the afternoon the wind will gradually slacken off.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Due to snowfall, the avalanche danger will not diminish soon.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe