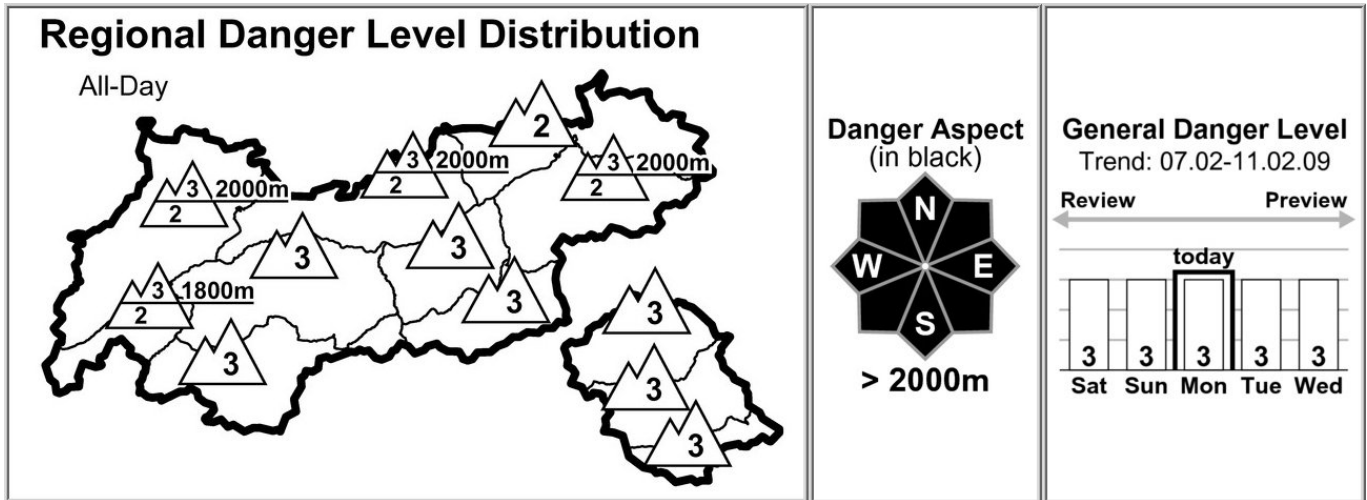


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 09.02.2009, at 07:30



TREACHEROUS SITUATION FOR BACKCOUNTRY SKIERS AND FREERIDERS IN PARTS OF SOUTHERN REGIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol is generally at the level "considerable". Even more critical is the situation in the Ötztal, Stubai, Tux and Zillertal Alps as well as in East Tyrol, where over the last few days there has been 30 to 40 cm, in some places up to 75 cm, of new snow. In addition, strong winds prevailed in north-south running valleys and in East Tyrol in particular, which led to the snow being transported anew. Avalanche prone locations are currently to be found in all aspects in those regions, more often above approximately 1600 m on steep slopes that have been little frequented thus far this winter. Throughout Tyrol, the new snow often blankets older snowdrift masses which formed last week amid the strong southerly winds. Both extensive experience and general caution when descending steep slopes are absolute necessities today. The situation is somewhat more favourable in the northern regions of North Tyrol, where the hazards are contingent on altitude. Caution in these regions is urged particularly towards steep areas adjacent to ridge lines where recently formed snowdrift accumulations, especially above approximately 2000 m, can still be triggered by minimum additional loading in places. As the winds gain in strength over the course of the day, the avalanche prone locations will become more widespread there. Natural avalanches are still possible in isolated cases, due to the daytime warming cycle.

SNOW LAYERING

Since last week, the strong southerly winds, together with snowfall in southern regions, have heavily influenced the old snowpack, which was quite loosely packed widespread. In the meantime, massive snowdrift accumulations cover over that snowpack widespread, initially on west to north to east facing slopes, yet through the shift in wind direction to northerly, now also on west to south to east facing slopes. The bonding of the snowdrift to old snow is predominantly poor, as several natural avalanches and avalanches unleashed by skiers over recent days attest to.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the westerly air current above central Europe is being interrupted by an interim high pressure zone today. On Tuesday, a storm front will sweep from the British Isles eastwards over Germany, bringing in its wake arctic air to the Alps. Mountain weather today: a short spate of improved weather. In North Tyrol's valleys, high fogbanks to begin with, but above them the sun will shine for a few hours until afternoon. Subsequently, clouds will move in from the west. During the night, foehn influence will sweep over North Tyrol, with storm strength winds in the mountains. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 to minus 10 degrees. On the northern flank of the Alps, brisk westerly winds with gusts up to 80 km/hr, towards the south the winds will slacken off.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New avalanche prone locations are expected to form due to winds.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe