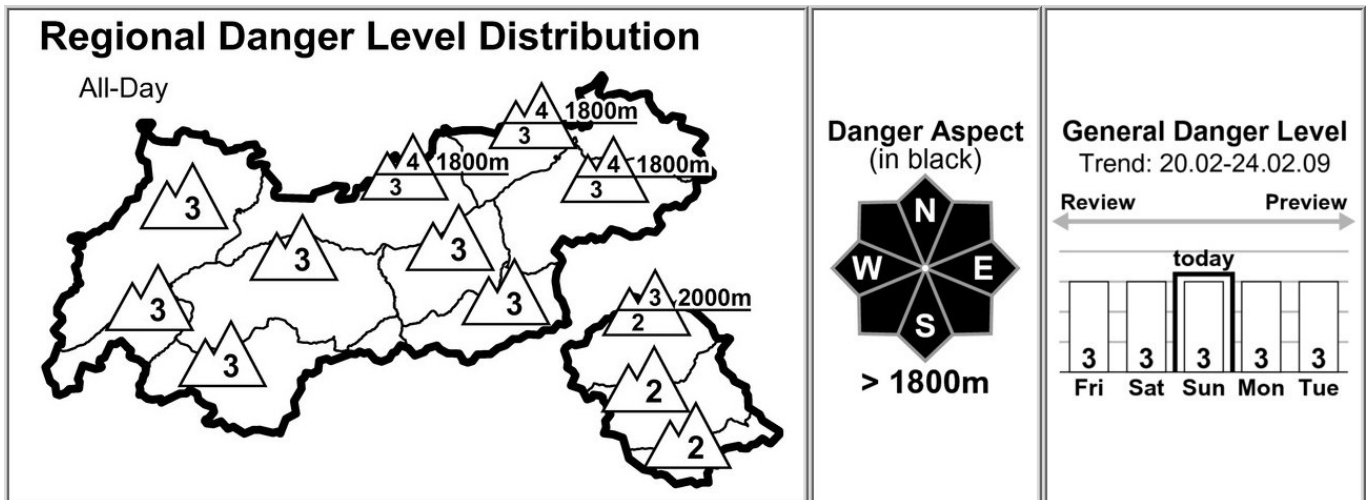


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 22.02.2009, at 07:30



AVALANCHE DANGER IS CONSIDERABLE WIDESPREAD, REGIONALLY IT IS HIGH

AVALANCHE DANGER

The conditions in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions are rather unfavourable, the hazards remain considerable far and wide. The major danger stems from both freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations, which are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, mostly above approximately 1800 m. Special caution is urged towards transitions from areas with little to areas with lots of snow, where even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider can unleash a slab avalanche. Isolated natural avalanches of loosely packed snow and slabs can be expected in rocky starting zones. The touring conditions in East Tyrol are more favourable, where the avalanche danger is generally moderate.

SNOW LAYERING

In the last 24 hours there has been 10 to 20 cm of new snow widespread in North Tyrol, along the Northern Alps and in the Lower Inn Valley somewhat more. In East Tyrol, there was precipitation only on the Tauern Ridge. High altitude northwesterly winds were brisk, which led to the formation of new, small sized snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions in particular. New snow and freshly formed snowdrift cover over older snowdrift accumulations, making them very difficult to recognize in outlying terrain. Caution: embedded inside the old snowpack are weak layers of loosely packed, unbonded snow crystals which can provide a bed surface for avalanches in many places. If avalanches fracture down to the old snowpack, they can attain large size.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: an active warm front has reached Tyrol from the north and will be followed by a cold front tonight. These northerly air masses full of precipitation will not abate until the end of the day on Tuesday. On Wednesday a brief weather improvement is expected. Mountain weather today: deep winter conditions including snowfall in the morning hours in particular, in the afternoon the skies will brighten only seldom. The snowfall may taper off by midday, at least temporarily. The southern Alps will also be covered with clouds and scattered snow flurries are possible there during the morning. Temperature at 2000 m: rising to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: rising to minus 10 degrees. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable danger continues. Along the Northern Alps, the danger is high.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe