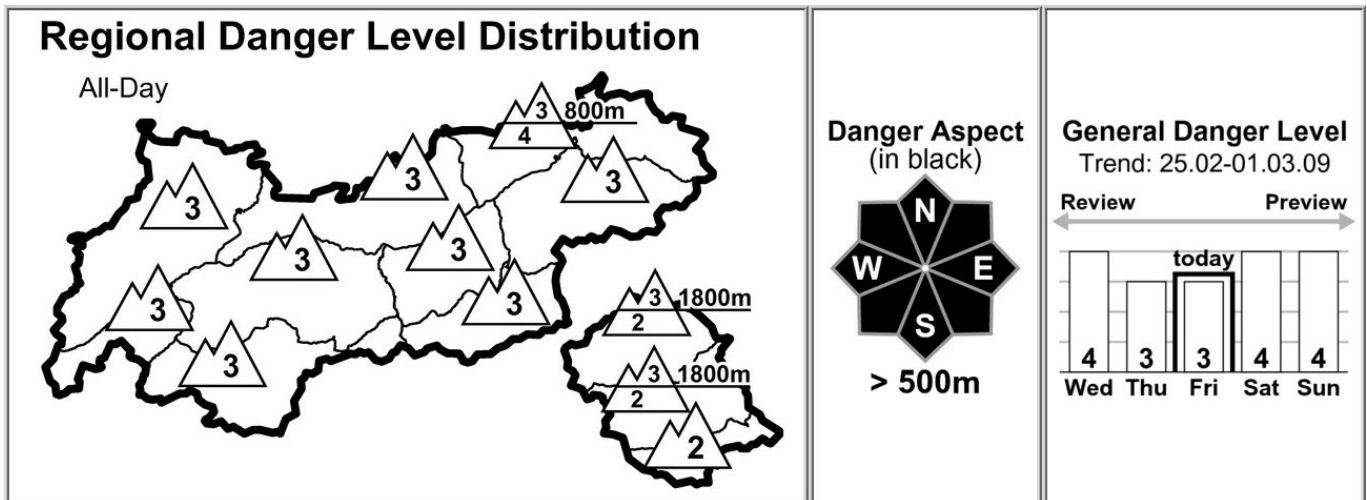


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 27.02.2009, at 07:30



HIGH DANGER FOR A BRIEF PERIOD IN NORTH TYROL'S RAINY NORTHEASTERN REGIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is categorised as high in all regions where heavy rains are expected today: in low lying areas of northeastern regions, particularly the eastern sector of the Northern Alps and parts of the Kitzbühel, Tux and Zillertal Alps. In those regions natural avalanches are possible and exposed sections of transportation routes are at risk. In North Tyrol's remaining regions, considerable danger prevails, by and large. Avalanche prone locations are to be found below about 2300 m on steep slopes in all aspects; and increasingly, below about 2600 m on very steep south facing slopes. In addition, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in steep, northeast to east to south facing ridge line areas must be avoided. Avalanches can be easily triggered by the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider in transition areas from little to lots of snow and in places with shallow snow. All in all, conditions still prevail which make experience in assessing avalanche hazards imperative. The situation in East Tyrol is better. However, caution is urged towards the recently formed snowdrift accumulations in that region.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it snowed yet again in North Tyrol. Most of the new snow fell in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and in the western sector of the Northern Alps, up to 35 cm. Elsewhere there was generally 10-20 cm, in northern East Tyrol 5 cm. Strong winds caused the snow to be transported, creating snowdrift now blanketing a thin melt freeze crust which formed during the night two days ago on sun-bathed slopes. Inside the snowpack, a marked bed surface is evident in the form of faceted, loosely packed crystals which formed in mid-January and which has been the cause of most of the recent avalanches. This layer is quite pronounced below about 2300 m in all aspects. The rain will make the snowpack thoroughly wet in low lying regions.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the moist/cold northwesterly airstream is slowly being pushed eastwards. On the weekend, an interim high pressure zone will move in from the west, bringing warmer air masses. At the beginning of next week it will be relatively mild, but the air will become incrementally more moist. Mountain weather today: the peaks are draped in clouds, repeated snowfall is expected until midday, amid brisk winds. Most of the snow is expected in the eastern sector of the Northern Alps. In the afternoon, the snowfall will withdraw to the Kaiser massif and Kitzbühel Alps, while in the inneralpine regions of the Upper Inn Valley the skies are expected to brighten gradually. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be dry and predominantly sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 to minus 9 degrees. The strong northwesterly winds will slacken off during the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, numerous natural avalanches are expected, due to the quickly rising temperatures.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe