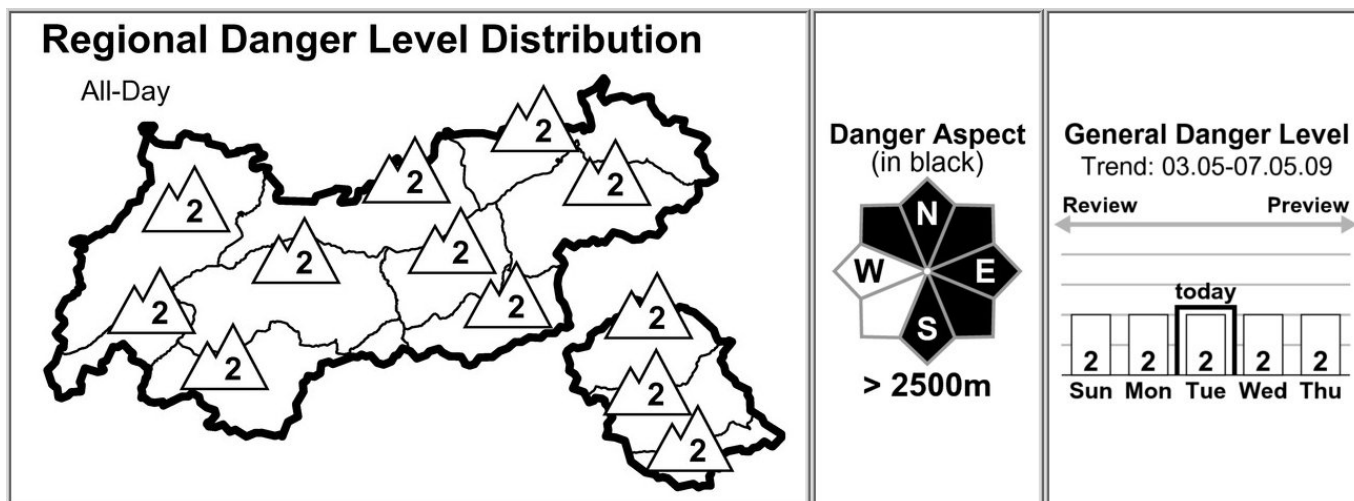


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 05.05.2009, at 07:30



MODERATE AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD - BEWARE SMALL SNOWDRIFT MASSES IN HIGH ALPINE REGIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry regions, the avalanche danger is moderate widespread. The major hazards stem from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations near ridge lines in high alpine regions, which, however, with sufficient experience are easily recognisable. Further, above approximately 3000 m in very steep terrain, particularly in west-northwest to north to east-northeast expositions, slab avalanches caused by large additional loading have been released over the last week from the layer of new fallen snow. This was especially the case in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps. Over the course of the day today, point release avalanches are expected in craggy terrain, which will not attain large size. The frequency of avalanches will increase throughout the day as the snowpack softens and moistens, especially on steep, shady slopes above approximately 2500 m.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night it rained widespread in Tyrol, which was snow above 1500 m, as much as 20 cm in the Lower Inn Valley; elsewhere, generally 5 to 15 cm. Moderate winds in high alpine regions gave rise to some snow transport. The snowpack below about 2500 m is moist or thoroughly wet. Atop it there is a melt freeze crust which is now covered over by the new snow. The most threatening potential bed surface for slab avalanches is the layer of graupel above 3000 m which formed widespread in the Ötztal and Stubai Alps last week, whose bonding with the snowpack atop it is now adequate, but weakens with increasing altitude. Elsewhere, particularly in northern regions above 2500 m, a loosely packed layer near the surface is a potential bed surface for isolated avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: wedged between a high over the eastern Atlantic and a low over the North Sea, the Alps are being subjected to a northwesterly air current with repeated moist air masses streaming against their northern flanks. Mountain weather today: the low lying clouds and high fog will disperse and provide good hiking weather at intermediate altitudes. The freezing level will climb to 2000 m over the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds, on the southern flank of the Alps the winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Tomorrow quite favourable touring conditions are expected, subject to a daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe