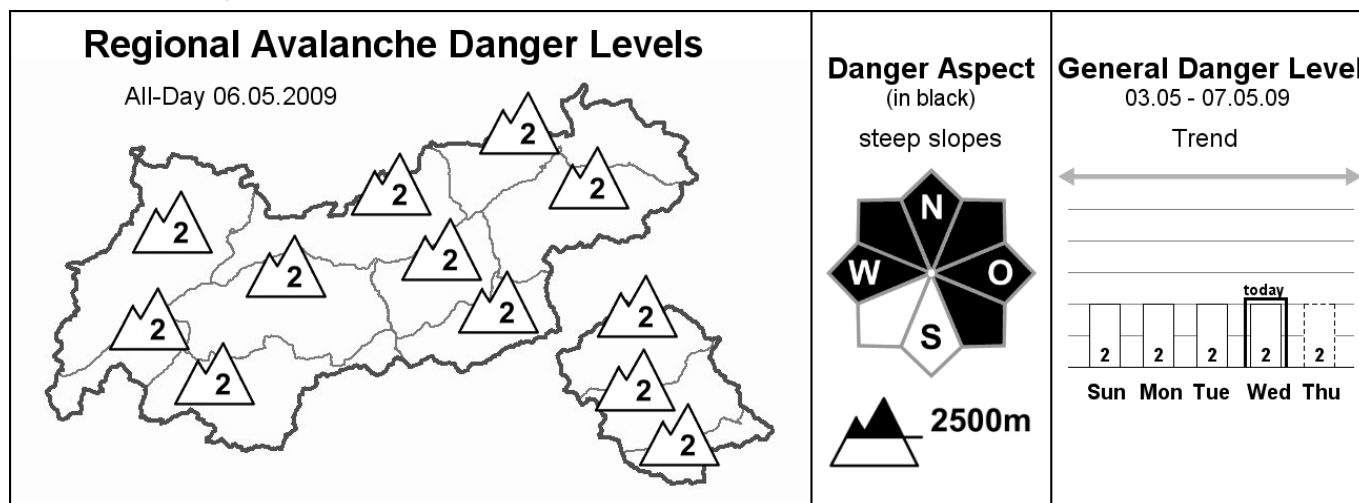


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 06.05.2009, at 07:30



Caution towards snowdrift accumulations near ridge lines in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

Ongoing moderate avalanche danger prevails in Tyrol widespread. The situation continues to be poorest in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, where a layer of graupel has been embedded widespread since last week and can well serve as a bed surface for avalanches which involve people. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders are to be found in the transported snow of recent days, especially frequent on steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions, where in addition new, small sized snowdrift accumulations have formed over the last two days (which, however, are easily recognisable). Avalanches can be triggered by large, sometimes even by small additional loading. The rain has made small slides possible, particularly on steep hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

It has again rained, except in southern East Tyrol below about 2000 m; most of the rain fell in the Lower Inn Valley. Above about 2000 m, there was 5 to 10 cm of new snow, which was transported and has formed small sized snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2500 m which in some places are prone to triggering. The layer of new snow from the beginning of the week in high alpine regions is decisive: in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps a layer of graupel is embedded, which could well serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches in very steep terrain.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a warm front will sweep across Tyrol today, bringing rain. On Thursday, high pressure zone influence; on Friday, some foehn, but conditions will become less stable from the west. Mountain weather today: in the Northern Limestone Alps, the Kitzbühel and Tux Alps, gloomy conditions today, with snowfall above 2000 m. South of the Upper Inn Valley conditions will improve this afternoon. Better mountain weather can be found in western and southern South Tyrol. Temperature at 2000 m: zero to plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Strong westerly to northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Tomorrow, increasingly frequent point release avalanches can be expected in craggy terrain, otherwise conditions will remain more or less unchanged.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe