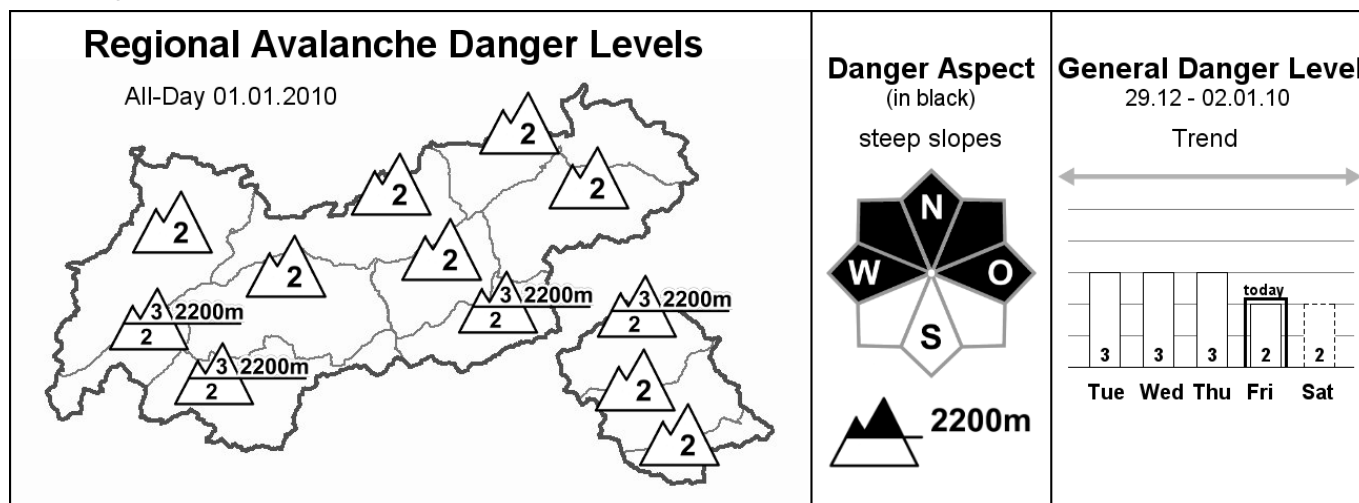


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 01.01.2010, at 07:30



Still considerable avalanche danger in some high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is generally moderate, but along the Main Alpine Ridge it is still considerable. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2200 m, particularly in western to northern to eastern expositions. The frequency of avalanche prone locations increases with ascending altitude, making avalanches still triggerable through minimum additional loading, even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. At low and intermediate altitudes, moist snowslides can be naturally triggered in isolated cases, although this activity will significantly recede as the temperatures drop.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours above 1500 to 1800 m there has been a bit of snowfall in Tyrol. More important, brisk westerly winds have led to new, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations forming in high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines. The snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is often moist or thoroughly wet due to the mild temperatures and the rainfall. In high alpine regions, snowdrift accumulations both old and new blanket the old snowpack in which several loosely packed layers are embedded and thus, can serve as bed surfaces for avalanches. All in all, the mild temperatures of recent days have aided the settlement and consolidation of the snowpack, making the situation more favourable.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a low dominates today's weather, the high altitude air current has shifted to northwesterly and temperatures are falling. Over the next few days, temperatures will remain low. Snowfall is expected primarily along the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Inn Valley. Mountain weather today: satisfactory visibility without haze and fog is most probable in the Lower Inn Valley. Even above the layers of fog, however, clouds will move in from the west in the course of the day. During the afternoon it could begin to snow in the Ausserfern and Arlberg regions. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Slightly increasing avalanche danger, due to snowfall.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe