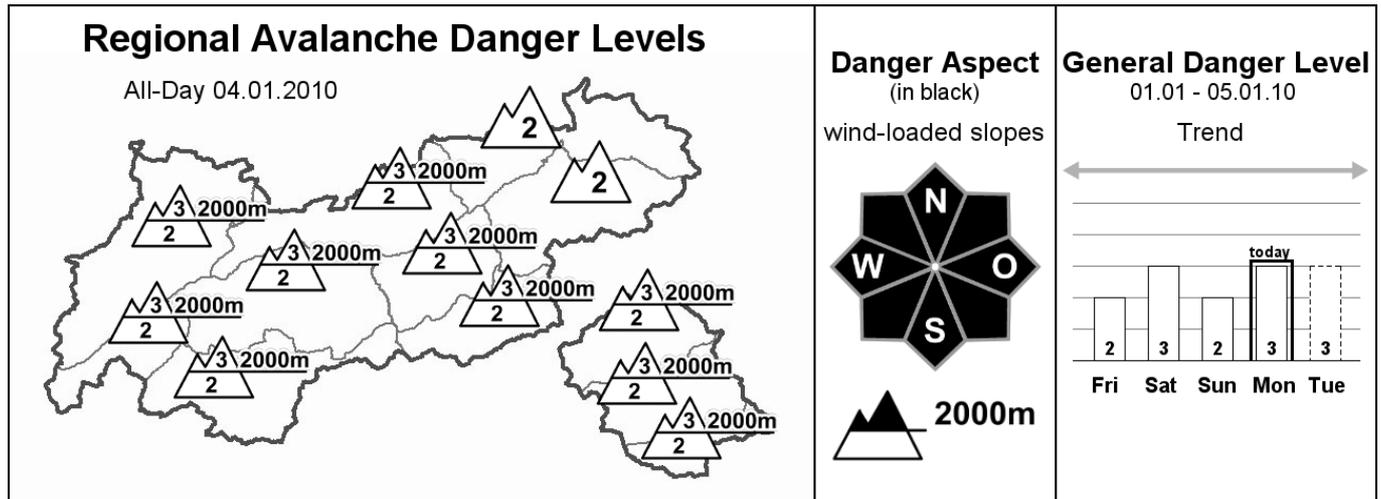


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 04.01.2010, at 07:30



Fresh snowdrift is the major peril

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude: at least above approximately 2000 m, the danger is predominantly considerable; below that altitude it is moderate; below the treeline, where there has been little wind, even low. The major hazard currently lies in the snowdrift accumulations which formed primarily day before yesterday: they can be triggered even by one single backcountry skier or freerider. With experience, such avalanche prone locations, found particularly beneath breaks in the terrain and in gullies and bowls, can be easily recognized. Above approximately 2300 m, in addition, on very steep west to north to east facing slopes, the old snowpack is trigger sensitive, especially in transition areas from shallow to deep snow. The steeper the terrain, the more easily avalanches can be released in such places.

SNOW LAYERING

The dominant factor in the snow layering is the snowdrift; accumulations are frequent and widely spread above the treeline. Fractures which appear on the surface when treading across the snowpack are clear indicators of this peril. The bonding of snowdrift with the old snowpack is generally inadequate, due to a generally thin melt-freeze crust up to about 2300 m, atop of which lies a thin layer of loosely packed snow. On top of that, the snowdrift has been deposited. At higher altitudes, nests of loosely packed, faceted crystals are frequently evident inside the snowpack. Atop of these lie harder, wind-influenced layers, some consisting of melt-freeze crusts stemming from 25.12, which extend up to 2700 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: the sunshine will at times be hidden in clouds, the visibility somewhat diffuse. More sunshine can be expected from the Karwendel eastwards. Slightly higher temperatures at all altitudes. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 13 to minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Light to moderate westerly to southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe