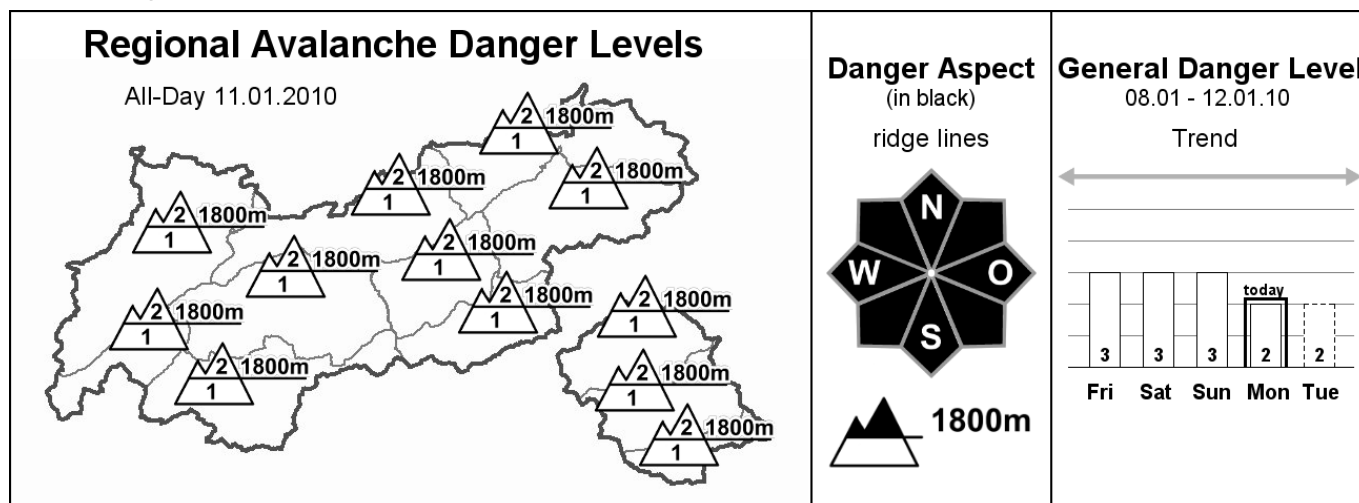


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 11.01.2010, at 07:30



Generally moderate avalanche danger above 1800 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has receded somewhat, to the level of moderate in general. The major hazard stems from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations, which are to be found in areas adjacent to ridge lines and slopes of all expositions above approximately 1800 m, although it is noteworthy that their frequency increases with altitude. In some places, avalanches can fracture from inside the old snowpack and reach large size. The transition areas from shallow to deep snow must also be judged with great care, since in such spots avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider.

SNOW LAYERING

At low and intermediate altitudes throughout Tyrol, the snow depths are below average. Even in high alpine regions there is relatively little snow, although due to wind influence the depths vary enormously even across small surface areas: utterly windblown surfaces and broad ridges often lie adjacent to deeply drifted gullies or bowls. The latest light snowfall blankets a highly irregular old snowpack in which crusts of varying hardness are interspersed with loosely packed intermediate layers which are potential bed surfaces for avalanches. In high alpine regions caution is imperative: new fallen snow and snowdrift are inadequately bonded with the old snowpack in general.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a high/low is supplying moist air masses to the Alps. Tomorrow the air will turn drier, before becoming temporarily moister again on Wednesday. Thereafter a weak high will probably dominate. Mountain weather today: visibility is poor in most mountain massifs. In the Northern Limestone Alps a bit of snowfall is possible, particularly between the Rofan and the Wilder Kaiser more snowfall is anticipated. The visibility is better in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge and around the Ortler. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Moderate westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The generally moderate avalanche danger will continue.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe