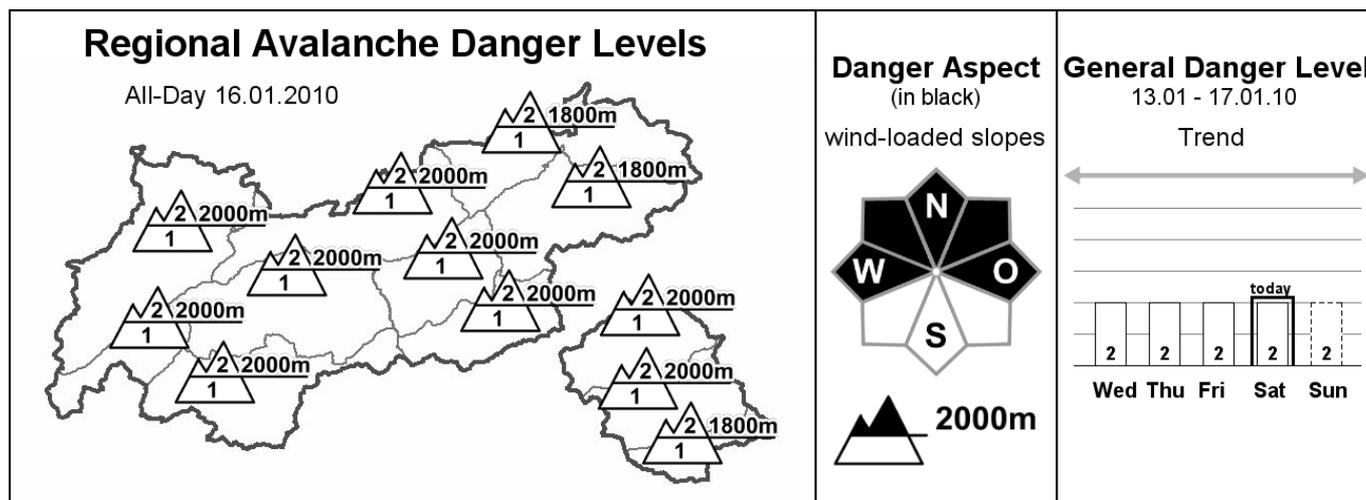


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 16.01.2010, at 07:30



Moderate avalanche danger widespread in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

Generally favourable conditions prevail in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions: the avalanche danger below about 2000 m is predominantly low, above that altitude it is moderate. The major hazard continues to stem from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations which are, however, usually small sized. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to east facing wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines. Moreover, transition areas from shallow to deep snow must be evaluated with great care, since these are the spots where avalanches can be triggered most easily. In intensely sun bathed starting zones, isolated naturally triggered avalanches of loosely packed surface snow can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

The persistent cold accompanied by sunny, deep wintery conditions influences favourably the transformation of snow crystals, which are becoming increasingly faceted and unbonded, thus gradually reducing the tensions inside the snowpack. Whereas at low and intermediate altitudes there is less than average snow compared to other years, the snowpack in high alpine regions is highly variable: due to recent winds which have often been strong, the snow depths differ greatly even within contained surface areas, placing windblown areas immediately adjacent to heavily drifted gullies and bowls. On the other hand, the snow layering itself is also quite irregular: hard crusts are embedded in the snowpack, interspersed with very loosely packed layers.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the high pressure zone centered over Russia is weakening. Tonight a weather disturbance will reach western Austria. Mountain weather today: fog is no hindrance to winter sports in the ski areas. Good visibility and sunshine dominate, although by evening clouds will move in. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 to minus 7 degrees. Light to moderate easterly winds, shifting to southeasterly and increasing in velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

On Sunday, slightly increasing avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe