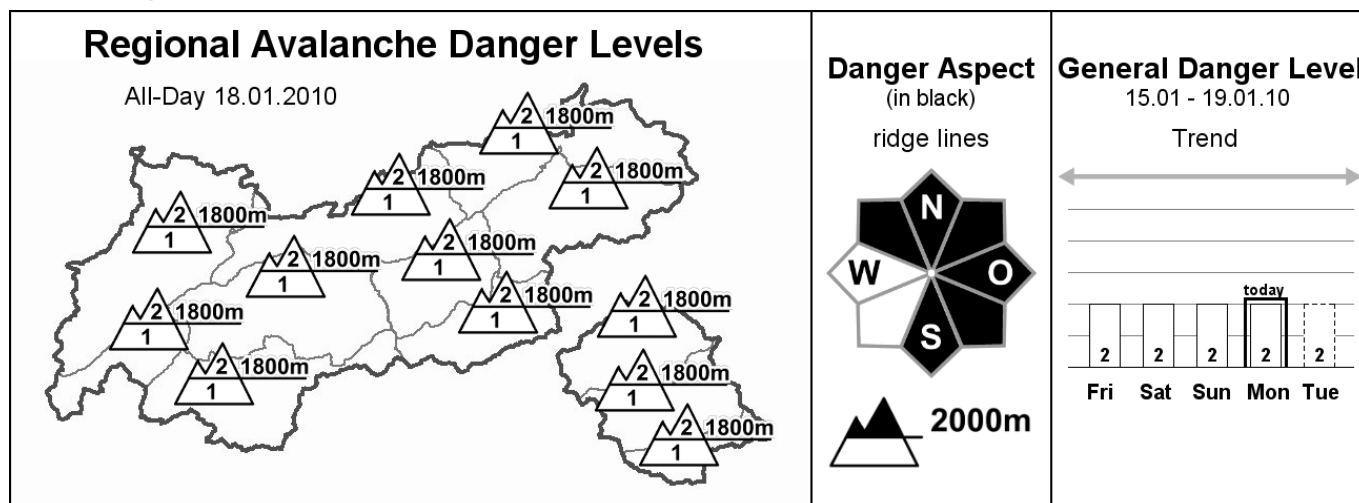


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 18.01.2010, at 07:30



Fresh snowdrift accumulations are highly trigger sensitive!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Below about 1800 m, the danger is low widespread. Up to about 2200 m, the peril is generally moderate, above that altitude it is considerable in some places. This is a direct consequence of the wind, which has transported large snow masses in some regions. The major hazard for backcountry skiers and freeriders stems from precisely these snowdrift accumulations, which are found primarily in north to east to south facing areas adjacent to ridge lines as well as in gullies and bowls. The size and the frequency of these danger zones increases proportionately with ascending altitude. With some experience in reading and assessing avalanche perils, the danger zones, which in steep terrain can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, are easy to recognize. Apart from this hazard, predominantly favourable conditions prevail. In very steep terrain, however, particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, the old snowpack can be released primarily through large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

In northern North Tyrol it snowed as much as 10 cm last night. The northerly winds slackened off, but are still strong in places at high altitudes. The bonding of freshly formed snowdrift masses to the old snow surface is generally inadequate; in very steep, sunny terrain it is somewhat better, due to a thin melt freeze crust. The old snowpack is intensely faceted throughout Tyrol, with loosely packed snow, low in tensions, and several thin melt freeze crusts embedded within it. Surface hoar is evident in some regions. At higher altitudes, the snowpack has been heavily influenced by the wind, with a hard intermediate layer and, on shade covered slopes, a loosely packed fundament from the onset of winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

The Northern Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge east of the Brenner Pass will struggle with clouds today, and occasional snow flurries are inevitable. During the afternoon, however, these will taper off west of the Karwendel range. Towards the Ötztal Alps/Silvretta, more sunshine can be expected. Very sunny on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds, at high altitudes winds will be intermittently strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations remain prone to triggering.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe