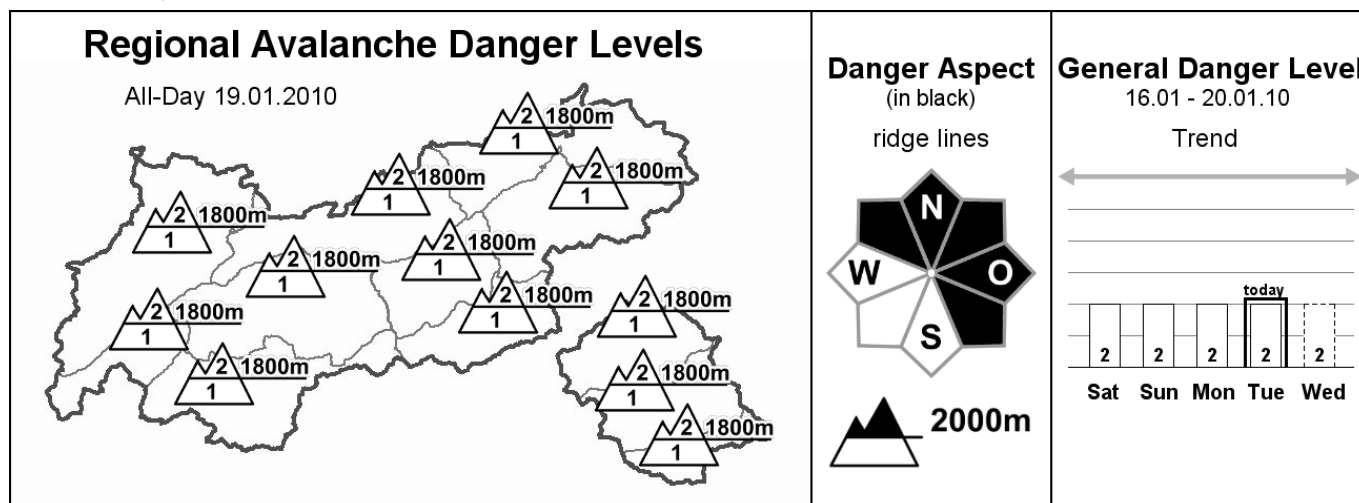


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 19.01.2010, at 07:30



Quite favourable conditions, apart from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger still depends on altitude. Below the treeline, low danger generally prevails; above it the danger is moderate. Backcountry skiers and freeriders currently need to exercise the most caution towards the snowdrift masses which formed last Sunday, primarily in steep, north to east to southeast facing areas near ridge lines, as well as below breaks in the terrain. Moreover, their frequency increases with ascending altitude. They are usually small sized and easily recognized by experienced skiers; they should be avoided whenever possible. Only in some places are they blanketed with loosely packed new fallen snow, which makes spotting the hazard much more difficult. In very steep terrain, avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading; elsewhere slab avalanches inside the old snowpack are possible especially in steep transition areas from shallow to deep snow in all expositions primarily from large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

Snow depths continue to be below average in the northern regions of North Tyrol. The further south you go, the more snow is evident. At low and intermediate altitudes the snowpack has become predominantly loosely packed with low internal tension. Up to 2700 m in places, thin melt freeze crusts are embedded which are often surrounded by faceted, thin layers. With increasing altitude, as wind influence is more prevalent, harder layers become more frequent. Particularly on shade covered slopes there is a loosely packed fundament near the ground.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Especially in western regions and on the southern flank of the Alps, fine weather conditions are expected in the mountains today. A few clouds above summit level are only a minor impediment, the skies will be mostly azure blue. East of the Karwendel-Tux Alps line it will be intermittently sunny, but dense cloudbanks will sweep by. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 to minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 to minus 11 degrees. Light northwesterly winds, in high alpine regions winds will attain moderate strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe