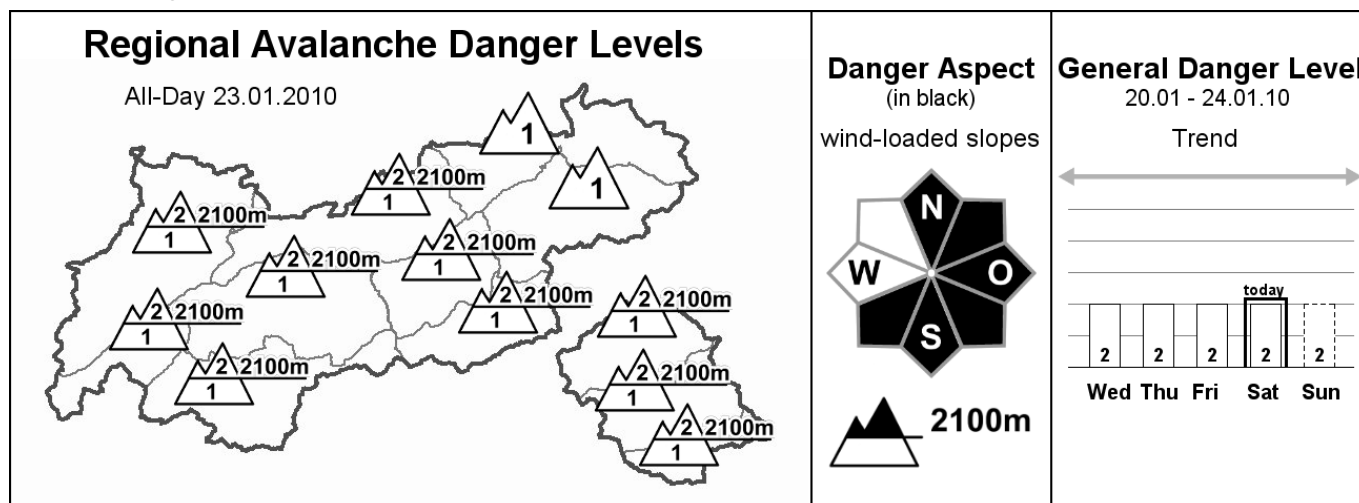


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 23.01.2010, at 07:30



Favourable conditions, apart from small danger zones near ridge lines

AVALANCHE DANGER

Quite favourable touring conditions prevail. The avalanche danger depends on altitude: above approximately 2100 m, the danger level is generally moderate; below that altitude it is low. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in the form of generally small snowdrift accumulations, particularly in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, behind breaks in the terrain and in gullies and bowls. With some experience in reading the dangers, these zones can usually be recognized, despite the thin layer of new fallen snow which lies on top of it. Apart from these recently formed danger spots, the old snowpack is also trigger sensitive in isolated cases, particularly in steep areas of little snow or shallow snowpack, such as in transition areas to deep snow, although large additional loading is ordinarily necessary to trigger avalanches. At higher altitudes, a hollow sounding snowpack in steep terrain should be avoided whenever possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack's internal tensions are diminishing incrementally, day by day. Up to at least 2100 m, the snow is faceted and very loosely packed. Hard melt freeze crusts embedded inside the snowpack are becoming ever thinner. Quite often, backcountry skiers and free riders break through the snowpack all the way down to the ground. With increasing altitude, the snow distribution becomes more irregular. Hard, wind pressed layers are evident in the center of the snowpack. Near the ground at high altitudes are relatively loosely packed layers in some areas, which could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. The bonding of recently formed, usually not deep snowdrift masses to the old snowpack is quite inadequate in some areas.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

At the center of a high pressure zone, the air is extremely dry in the heights, providing superb visibility from the summits, and only light wind. The sun shines from a cloudless sky and it is often milder in the peaks than in the valleys, which are filled with cold air. Temperatures at 2000 m: 0 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Quite favourable touring conditions continue to dominate.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe