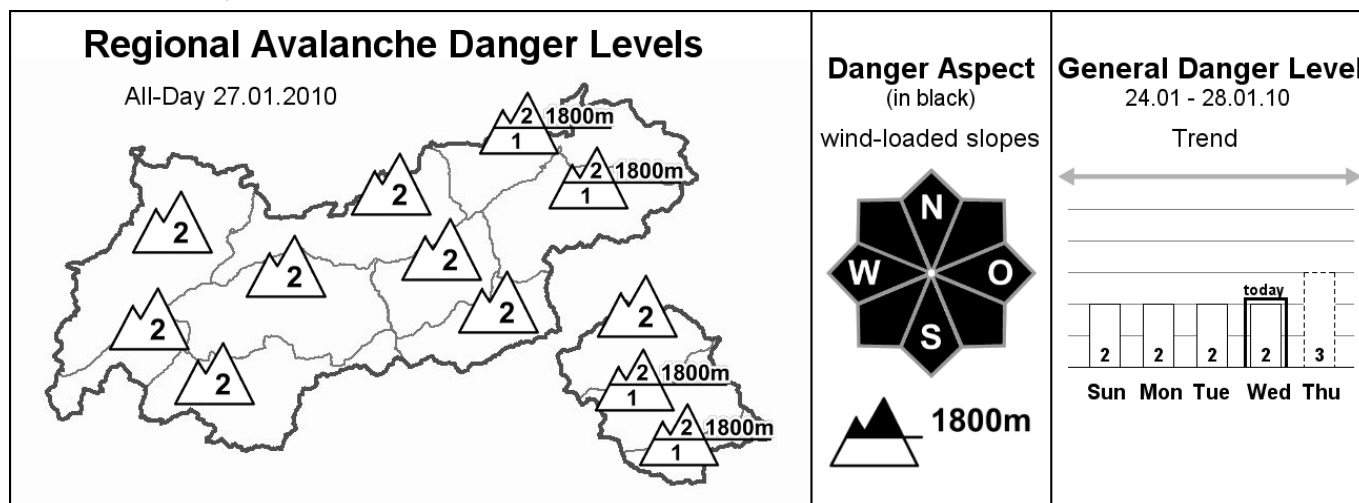


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 27.01.2010, at 07:30



Avalanche danger is moderate widespread - Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has escalated slightly, yet is still assessed as moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep, wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions, generally above approximately 1800 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered relatively easily, in some places even through minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. The snow masses released are generally small, due to the thin snowdrift. In isolated cases in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, avalanches can be triggered inside the old snowpack and attain large size.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been some snowfall in North Tyrol, though more than 5 to 10 cm was rare. Moderate northerly winds have created new, small sized snowdrift accumulations in high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines in particular. At low and intermediate altitudes the snow depths are currently below average. In high alpine regions the new fallen snow and fresh snowdrift blanket a highly irregular old snowpack: shallow snow or windblown slopes are often immediately adjacent to heavily drifted gullies and bowls. Within the old snowpack are a number of hardened melt-freeze crusts, interspersed with faceted and loosely packed layers, rendering them unbonded to the layers around them.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tyrol lies on the eastern edge of a high above England and northern Germany, which is bringing cold and dry air masses to the Alps for a short interim. Mountain weather today: in the mountains above 1200 to 1500 m, it will be sunny in North Tyrol during the morning, during the afternoon high altitude cloudbanks are expected to move in from the northwest. On the southern flank of the Alps, quite sunny all day long. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Light to moderate easterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasing avalanche danger amidst snowfall and wind.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe