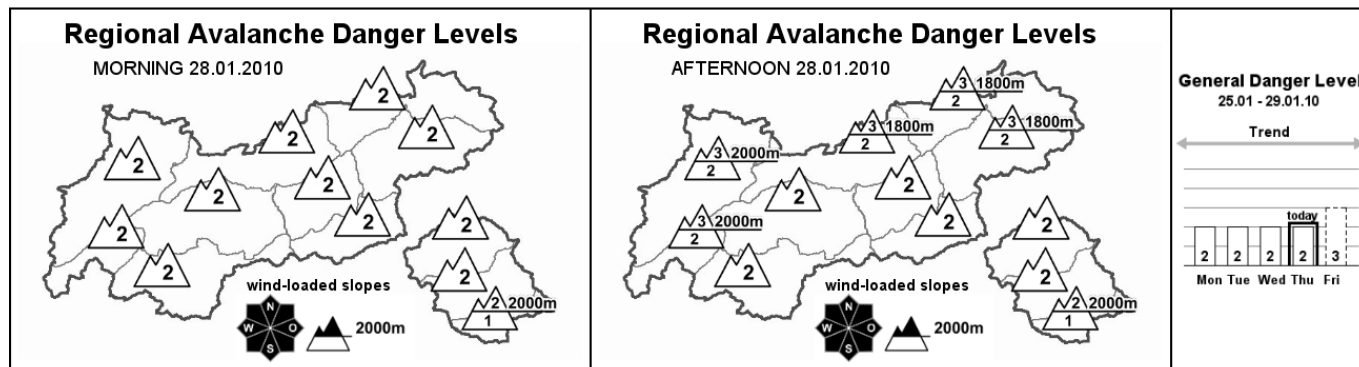


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 28.01.2010, at 07:30



Amidst snowfall and strong winds, increasing avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Snowfall and winds will raise the avalanche danger. In the barrier regions of the Northern Alps, danger level "considerable" will be reached far and wide by midday. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions, mainly above approximately 2000 m. The frequency and prevalence of the danger zones will increase over the course of the day, the hazard level is rising. In particular, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering; even minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider, is sufficient to trigger an avalanche. In some places, avalanches can fracture down to the old snowpack and attain larger size. Skiing and freeriding tours require extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche dangers.

SNOW LAYERING

In North Tyrol it snowed widespread last night, most heavily in the northern barrier zones. In addition, strong westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitudes were blowing, which intensely transported the new fallen snow. Today, transport and redistribution of new fallen snow and snowdrift can be expected all day long. Both new fallen snow and snowdrift blanket a generally loosely packed, poorly consolidated old snowpack; the bonding of the snowdrift accumulations to the old snow surface is predominantly poor, snowdrift masses are thus trigger sensitive and can be released with relative ease.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a cold front is sweeping across Tyrol over the course of the day today, particularly influencing the northern rim of the Alps. On Friday the disturbances will temporarily recede, then on Saturday a new cold front is expected. Mountain weather today: snowfall and wind along the Northern Alps until midday, in particular in the northern and western barrier zones. On the Main Alpine Ridge less snowfall is expected; on the southern flank of the Alps it will remain dry with sunny spells. During the afternoon, conditions will subside, yet snow flurries will continue. Temperatures will drop. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to minus 11 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 to minus 18 degrees. Strong westerly to northwesterly winds, which may become quite blustery.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will escalate somewhat further, accompanied by additional snowfall.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe