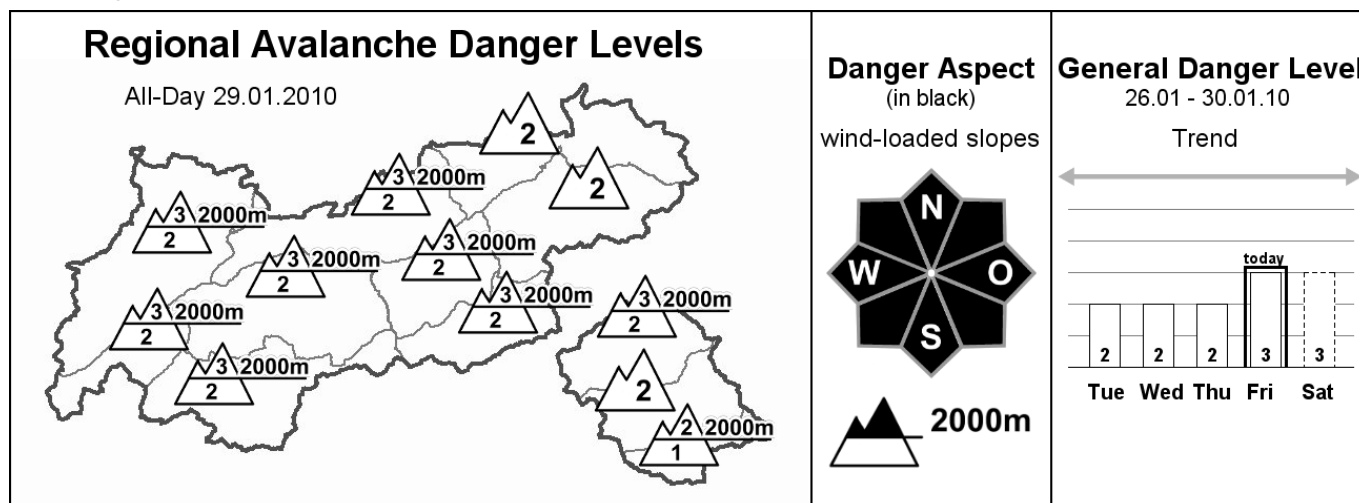


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 29.01.2010, at 07:30



Above 2000 m, avalanche danger is considerable widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

Snowfall and strong high altitude winds have escalated the avalanche danger, which above approximately 2000 m is now considerable. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions. Older and fresh snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Caution is urged towards the new snowdrift accumulations which are expected to form over the course of the day, since the winds will be strong enough to transport snow masses. In steep starting zones, isolated loosely packed snow avalanches can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in the regions Arlberg/Ausserfern, along the Northern Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps, there has been 10 to 20 cm of snowfall, in remaining North Tyrol generally less than 10 cm. East Tyrol remained free of precipitation, with the exception of the Tauern Ridge. The snowfall was accompanied by strong westerly to northwesterly winds, which easily transported the dry, new fallen snow, thus leading to fresh snowdrift accumulations. Both new fallen snow and snowdrift are inadequately bonded to the faceted, loosely packed old snowpack, making them prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a powerful low pressure zone is draped above northern Europe, bringing quite humid air masses to Tyrol in westerly air currents. On Saturday, the air current will shift to northwesterly and bring cold air. Mountain weather today: particularly in the Northern Alps it will be windy. The higher summits are often shrouded in clouds and fog, occasional snowfall is possible on the Arlberg, in the Lechtal Alps and in the Karwendel range in particular. In the Southern Alps, harmless cloudbanks ensure more pleasant weather conditions. Wintery cold temperatures. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 18 to minus 14 degrees. Moderate to brisk westerly winds at high altitudes, in the Northern Alps winds will be strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst continuing light snowfall, the avalanche dangers remain undiminished.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe