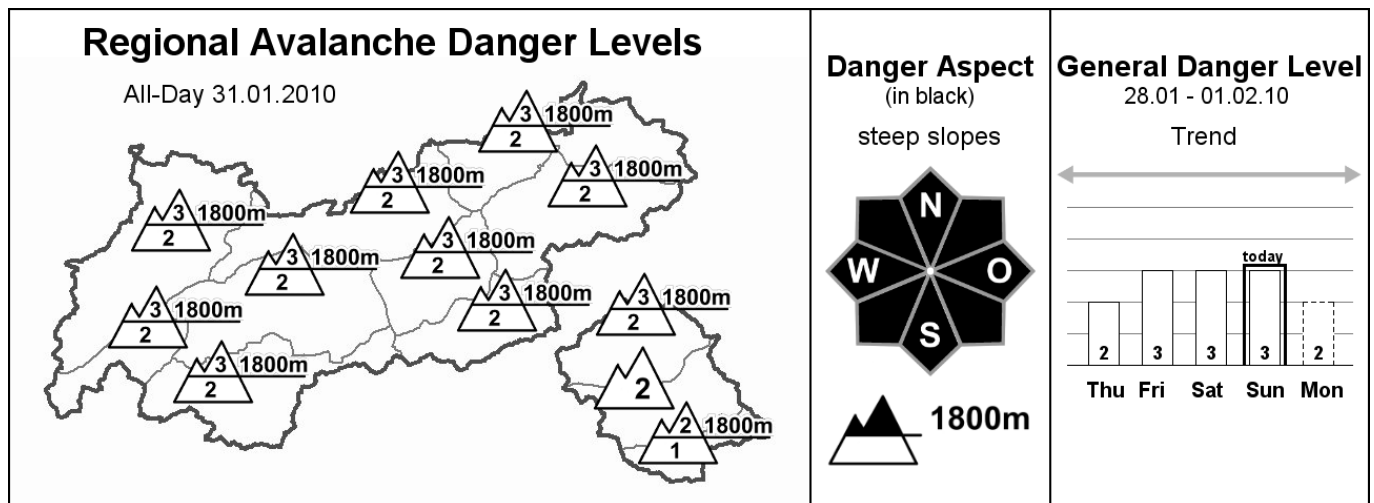


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 31.01.2010, at 07:30



Above 1800 m, predominantly considerable avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is by and large considerable above approximately 1800 m. The major hazard stems from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations which are inadequately bonded with the old snowpack. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions. Avalanches can be triggered by minimum additional loading, i.e. even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Since the old snowpack is so poorly consolidated in most places, avalanches can in isolated cases even fracture and sweep along more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack, making avalanches attain larger size. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs require extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche perils.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in North Tyrol and along the East Tyrolean Tauern Ridge, there has been up to 10 cm of snowfall widespread, in isolated northern barrier zones there was a bit more. Since Thursday there has been about 20 to 30 cm of snowfall in the northern barrier zones, in remaining parts of North Tyrol and on the East Tyrolean Tauern Ridge, 15 to 20 cm. The high altitude westerly to northwesterly winds were ongoingly strong enough to transport snow masses; thus, the new fallen snow, which was very dry and light due to the low temperatures, was continually drifted and snowdrift accumulations were uninterruptedly formed anew. New fallen snow and snowdrift cover over a faceted, loosely packed old snowpack. This makes the bonding of fresh and older snowdrift accumulations to the old snowpack very poor; the snowpack is prone to triggering widespread.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tyrol lies between a low over northern Europe and a low over the Adriatic, caught in masses of very cold and moderately humid air masses. Tomorrow, Monday, a weak intermediate high will make itself felt. Mountain weather today: very cold wintery weather conditions; most higher mountain regions are shrouded in clouds, particularly from the Arlberg over the Lectal Alps, the Karwendel as far as the Kitzbühel Alps a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In the Southern Alps, visibility is expected to improve over the course of the day, the most pleasant weather conditions are expected between Ortler and Brenta. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 15 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 23 degrees. Moderate to brisk westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will gradually subside.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe