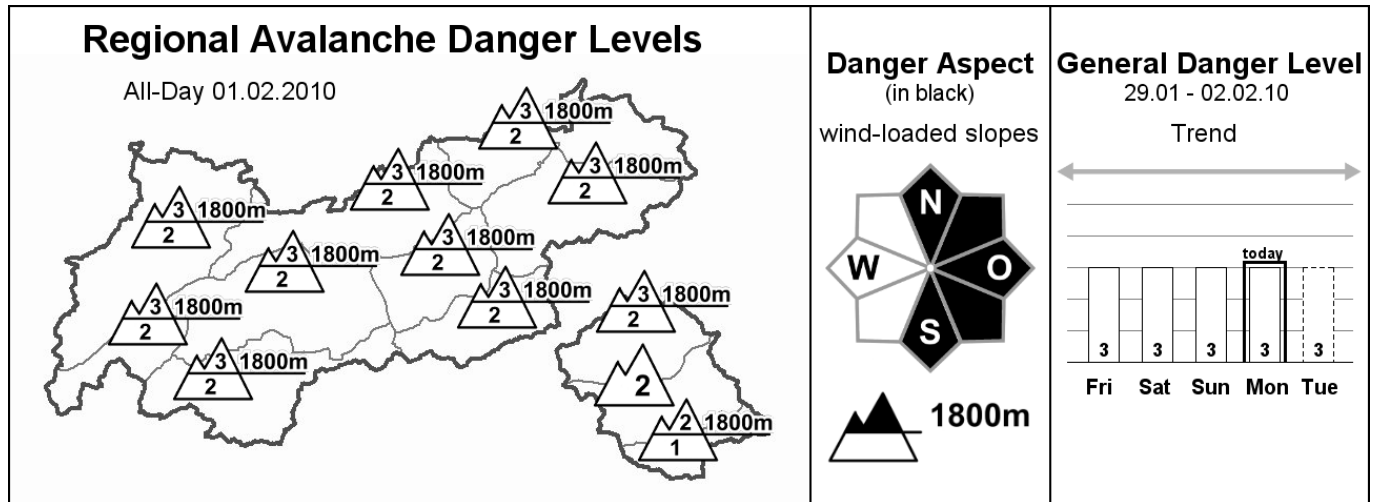


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 01.02.2010, at 07:30



Recently formed snowdrift accumulations remain trigger-sensitive

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is still contingent on altitude: above the treeline, considerable avalanche danger prevails. Below that altitude it is moderate, in wind protected areas in some places, even low. Backcountry skiers and freeriders must still exercise great caution towards recently formed snowdrift accumulations. Due to the sometimes strong high altitude westerly winds as of 28 January, such snowdrift accumulations are frequently found in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines in northern to eastern to southern exposition. But also in other expositions, caution is imperative towards freshly drifted areas, which - as was amply demonstrated over the weekend by avalanches involving people - can still be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Caution, too, in steep, sparsely wooded forests wherever the wind has transported snow. The situation is more favourable wherever there was no wind last week, as well as on the slopes many backcountry skiers and freeriders have frequented all winter long. It is also more favourable in southern East Tyrol

SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack is loosely packed widespread, and contains several thin melt-freeze crusts, in some places up to about 2700 m. Until the precipitation in the middle of last week, the old snowpack surface consisted generally of loosely packed fresh-fallen snow of faceted crystals, in the furthestmost northern regions also of a thin ice lense up to approximately 1800 m, and in some places of surface hoar. The bonding of this surface to the transported new fallen snow is generally poor, the trigger sensitivity is thus quite high. The prevalence of drifted snow masses increases with ascending altitude. The distribution of snow also becomes more irregular with ascending altitude.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather: icy cold. For a few hours, there will be sunshine to enjoy in all regions. The initial cloudiness between the Rofan, Kitzbühel Alps and Kaiser Massif will soon disperse. During the afternoon, clouds will move in gradually from the northwest and become more dense towards evening. Tonight during the night a few centimeters of snowfall is expected, in the Northern Alps and Silvretta there will be about 10 cm. Moderate northwesterly winds which will increase in velocity at high altitudes. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 16 to minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 21 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will gradually subside.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe