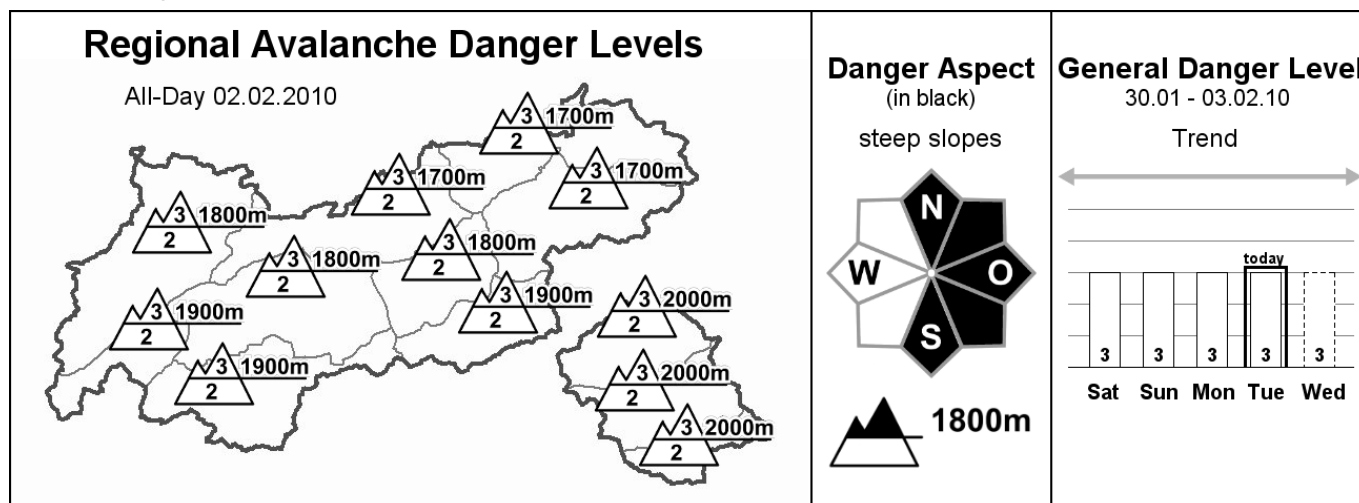


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 02.02.2010, at 07:30



More and more danger zones with increasing altitude, due to wind

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger escalates with increasing altitude. Below the treeline, predominantly moderate danger prevails; in lower, wind protected areas, even low danger. Above the treeline, the danger is considerable. The major peril for backcountry skiers and freeriders remains the same: recently formed snowdrift accumulations. On the one hand, those which formed towards the end of last week; added to that, yesterday's winds led to further transport of great masses of snow. All snowdrifted areas in steep terrain are currently prone to triggering. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release an avalanche. Danger zones are more prevalent in north to east to south facing areas adjacent to ridge lines, but snowdrift accumulations on steep slopes even in other expositions should be avoided today without exception! In very steep areas near ridge lines in eastern exposition which are exposed to strong winds, even naturally triggered avalanches are possible. Extensive experience is currently required in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs in spotting and assessing avalanche hazards.

SNOW LAYERING

The decisive factor in the current snow layering is the thoroughly poor bonding of the recently deposited snowdrift with the old snowpack surface. In northern regions up to approximately 1800 m this surface consists of a thin ice lense, elsewhere of faceted, loosely packed crystals widespread, in some areas with surface hoar. At least in the Lower Inn Valley, between the day before yesterday and yesterday, a layer of very light new snow was deposited which at higher altitudes is generally covered over by fresh snowdrift. All in all, a far higher degree of trigger sensitivity of the snowpack must be generally assumed. This is confirmed by all the snow analysis we have conducted over the last few days. The new fallen snow of last night (in Ausserfern as much as 15 cm) will be transported by the winds today.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

After the final snow flurries have tapered off, sunny spells are possible between late morning and early afternoon in particular. During the afternoon, clouds will move in from the west and become increasingly dense. Subsequently a bit of snowfall is possible between the Ötztal Alps, the Arlberg and the Zugspitze in particular. In the Southern Alps it will be sunny to begin with, then overcast this afternoon. Moderate to strong westerly to northwesterly winds will prevail. During the night tonight, winds will increase to storm velocity. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 14 to minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 21 to minus 16 degrees and rising.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Critical conditions for backcountry tours continue.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe