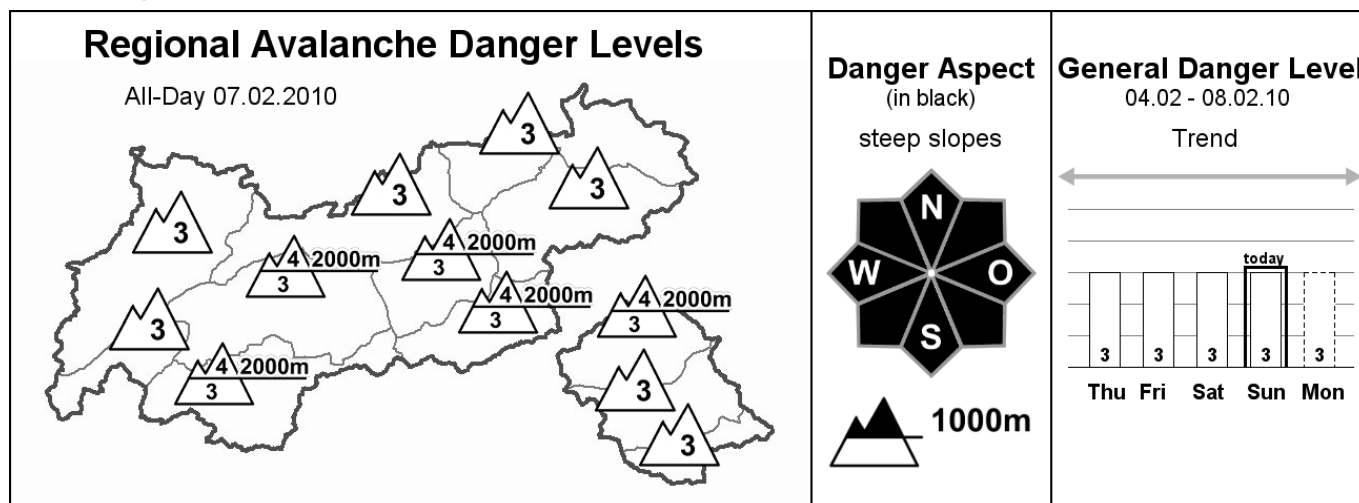


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 07.02.2010, at 07:30



Numerous avalanches underscore highly treacherous situation for backcountry skiers and freeriders

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains tense and threatening for backcountry skiers and freeriders. Above approximately 2000 m in the Ötztal, Stubai, Tux and Zillertal Alps, as well as the northern Prealps of the East Tyrolean Tauern, high avalanche danger prevails. In higher altitude regions exposed to wind, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected in very steep areas near to ridge lines in particular. Medium sized avalanches are increasingly expected in southwestern to southern to southeastern expositions. In the remaining regions of Tyrol, considerable avalanche danger generally prevails, which creates a highly treacherous situation for backcountry skiers and freeriders. With probability, not possibility, avalanches will be triggered in steep, snowdrifted terrain, particularly in places which have been seldom skied over this winter. This includes all expositions. Thus, we advise high caution and great restraint in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs. Those who do not have extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche hazards should remain on the secured ski runs.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, it has snowed throughout Tyrol, most of which fell in the southern Zillertal Alps, up to 30 cm. In the Northern Alps, the Tux, Stubai and Ötztal Alps and in northern East Tyrol, there was generally 20 cm, elsewhere 10 cm. Over the last 2 days in these regions there has been generally 30 to 40 cm of snowfall. The northerly wind has slackened off, although it is still quite strong along the Main Alpine Ridge in particular. Thus, snowdrift accumulations continue to form. Inside the old snowpack, loosely packed layers are embedded widespread, often interspersed with layers of depth hoar and usually thin melt-freeze crusts. The bonding of the snow which has fallen since the end of January, and has often been subject to winds, with the old snowpack is generally quite poor. With increasing altitude, the distribution of snow masses becomes more and more irregular, often manifesting hardened, wind-induced layers. Today's snow has fallen without wind in many places, which further impedes assessment of the peril.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

The snowfall on the northern flank of the Alps will taper off by this afternoon. Some bright spells can then be expected in inneralpine regions west of the Brenner. In the northern barrier zones, the Kitzbühel and Zillertal Alps, the residual clouds and light snow flurries will persist a bit longer. In the Dolomites it is sunny, amidst strong northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Moderate northerly winds, at high altitudes winds are brisk.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

We continue to recommend high caution in outlying terrain. The avalanche situation remains tense and threatening for all backcountry skiers and freeriders.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe