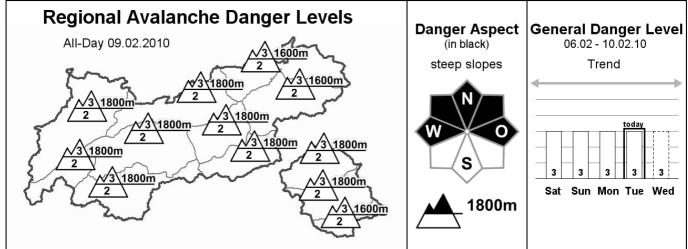
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Tuesday, 09.02.2010, at 07:30





Slightly diminished avalanche danger - but still considerable above 1800 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has receded slightly, but is still considerable widely spread above approximately 1800 m. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which are poorly bonded with the old snowpack, which is in itself poorly consolidated. Avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m. Extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche hazards is imperative for anyone in open terrain. Avalanches can still be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. The situation is more favourable on slopes which have been tread or skied upon all winter long, since the old snowpack is better consolidated there. In sun-bathed starting zones, the danger level will increase over the course of the day today through naturally triggered loose snow and slab avalanches.

SNOW LAYERING

Solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle have made themselves felt in settling the snow and consolidating the uppermost surface somewhat, particularly on south and east facing slopes. However ongoing caution is necessary: the old snowpack is faceted widely spread, making it unbonded. Atop this loosely packed, highly trigger-sensitive base, new fallen snow and snowdrift now lie deposited from the most recent period of precipitation. The bonding of fresh fallen snow and older snowdrift accumulations with the old snowpack surface is generally quite inadequate.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the influence of the high pressure zone is diminishing. A low over the western Mediterranean is heading towards the Alps, bringing humid air masses from the south our way. Mountain weather today: superb winter sports weather initially with excellent visibility. Due to the cloudbanks which will move in from the south over the course of the day, the summits from the Ortler over the Dolomites all the way to the Carnic Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge will be shrouded in clouds to begin with. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Light to moderate southwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Above 1800 m, avalanche danger continues to be considerable widespread.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe

