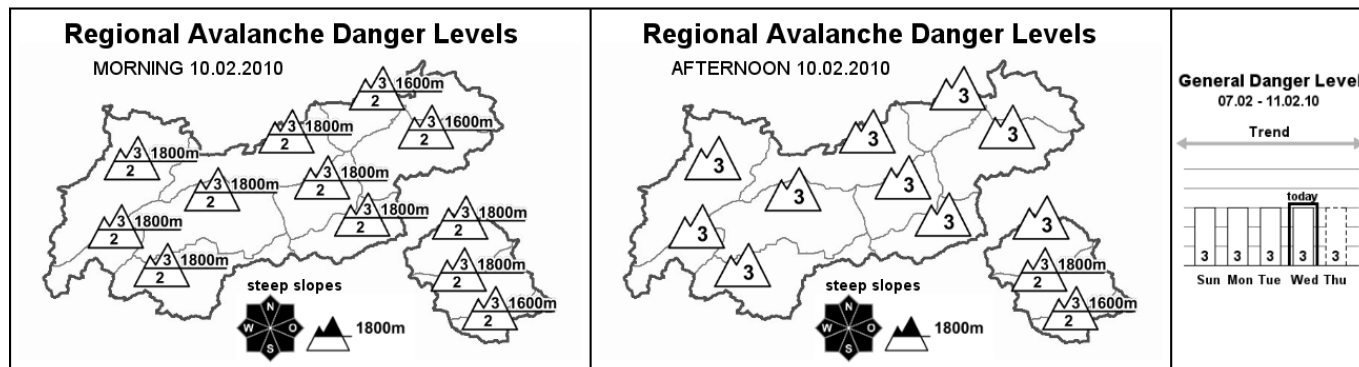


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 10.02.2010, at 07:30



Above 1800 m considerable avalanche danger widespread - and rising, due to snowfall and wind

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, considerable avalanche danger prevails widespread above 1800 m, a danger level which is expected to rise somewhat over the course of the day. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or snowboarder. Assessing the avalanche perils is made more difficult by the fact that the danger zones will be covered and concealed by snowfall today, making them hard to recognize. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain require extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards. The conditions are more favourable on routes which have been used all winter long, i.e. standard backcountry tours.

SNOW LAYERING

Snow analysis conducted far and wide throughout the land has confirmed that the snow layering of the old snowpack is highly unfavourable: it consists largely of faceted, very loosely packed snow crystals interspersed with hardened crusts. This unbonded base is an ideal surface for avalanches. Atop this trigger sensitive old snowpack are freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations. The bonding of the snowdrift to the old snowpack is thoroughly poor.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: masses of cold air are streaming towards Tyrol from the north; a low over Italy is delivering humid air from the south. This low will not move eastwards until the weekend, after which a weak high will make itself felt. Temperatures will remain wintery cold until the weekend. Mountain weather today: a short interim of sunshine in the Lower Inn Valley to begin with. Snowfall will spread from the Arlberg gradually towards the Hohe Tauern over the course of the day: up to 20 cm of snowfall is expected on the Arlberg, the Zillertal Alps, all around the Wilder Kaiser and in the Hohe Tauern. Additional light snowfall is anticipated tonight. Temperatures in the mountains will drop further still. Temperature at 2000 m: sinking from minus 9 to minus 13 degrees; at 3000 m: to minus 15 degrees. Moderate southwesterly to southeasterly winds at high altitudes, shifting later to northeasterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowfall and winds will escalate avalanche danger somewhat.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe