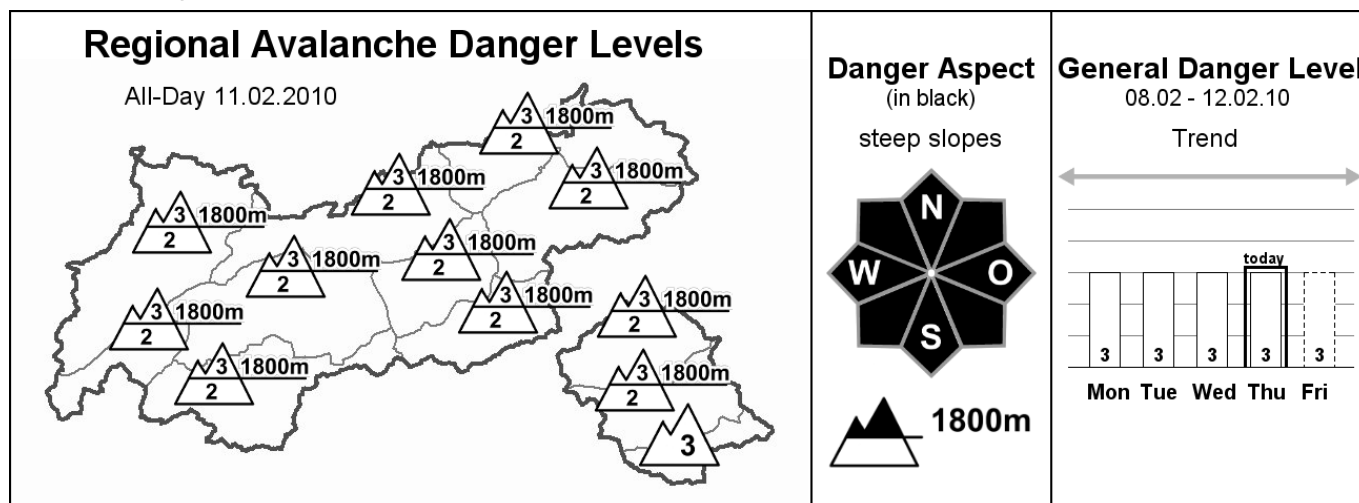


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 11.02.2010, at 07:30



New fallen snow conceals danger zones, makes assessment of hazards more difficult

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the East Tyrolean Dolomites, considerable avalanche danger prevails. In the remaining regions of Tyrol, the danger below about 1800 m is generally moderate, above that altitude it is still considerable. Backcountry skiers and freeriders should continue to exercise great restraint in traversing or descending steep terrain, since slab avalanches can be easily triggered in many places by only minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are currently to be found in all expositions; with the fresh fallen snow of yesterday they can be recognized only with difficulty, sometimes not at all. The situation is currently more favourable in terrain which has been used all winter long, as well as below the treeline. However, in sparsely wooded, very steep north facing forest terrain, avalanches can still be released even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. In areas adjacent to ridge lines, in addition, caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, particularly in southern exposition.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it snowed as much as 45 cm in southern East Tyrol. Elsewhere there was generally between 5 and 20 cm of snowfall. The snow fell with little or no wind influence and is, thus, quite loosely packed. The snowpack is currently unfavourable in most places above the treeline. Beneath the drifted masses which formed at the end of January are several loosely packed, faceted layers of crystals in many areas, as well as depth hoar, which are surrounded by thin melt freeze crusts. Analysis of the snowpack confirms the continuing poor bonding of the layers with each other. In untouched, flat terrain, settling noises can be heard regularly.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Bitter cold winter weather in the mountains, with moderate winds. Many summits are shrouded in fog, out of which a bit of snowfall (5 to 10 cm) is anticipated along the Northern Alps. Some sunshine closer to the Main Alpine Ridge at quite high altitudes. In steep, wind exposed places, the snow will be transported, impeding visibility. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 14 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 17 degrees. Moderate easterly to northeasterly wind, somewhat brisker at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe