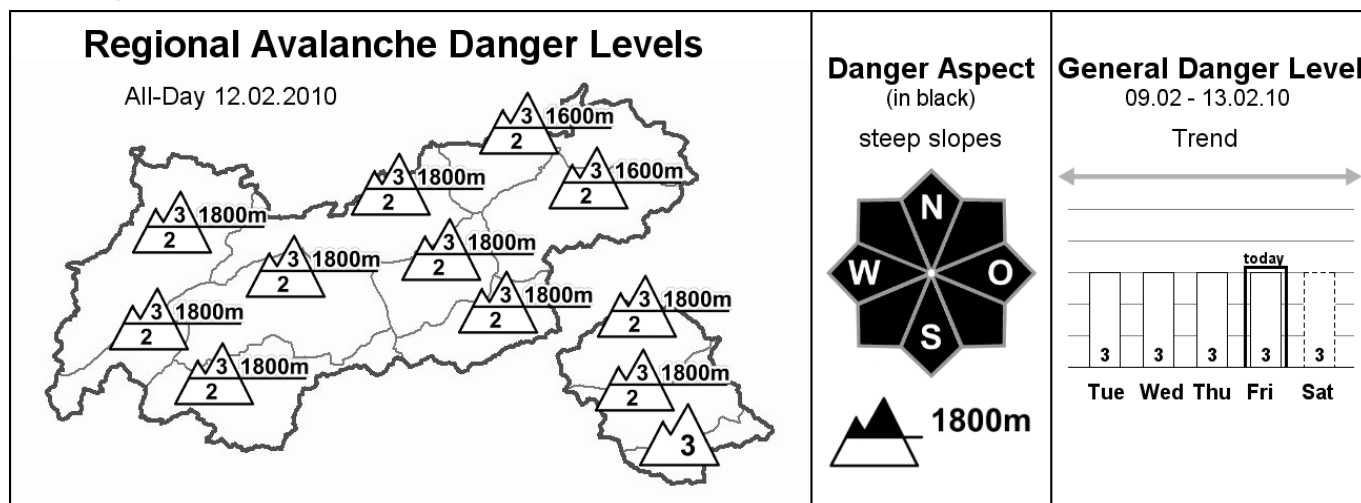


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 12.02.2010, at 07:30



Above 1800 m, avalanche danger is considerable widely spread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is still considerable widespread above approximately 1800 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations, whose bonding with the old snowpack is thoroughly poor and thus, can be released as avalanches even by minimum additional loading, i.e. including the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions; their frequency is higher on shady slopes. Since these danger zones are often covered and concealed by fresh fallen snow, they are quite difficult to recognize in open terrain. Extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is ongoingly essential for skiing and freeriding tours.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been up to 10 cm of snowfall along the Northern Alps, elsewhere in North Tyrol just a smattering. High altitude easterly to northeasterly winds were moderate to brisk, thereby transporting the dry new fallen snow especially in areas adjacent to ridge lines. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations blanket an unfavourably layered snowpack widespread, consisting generally of faceted, loosely packed and quite unbonded snow crystals, interspersed with often hardened crusts. This structure of snow layering provides an ideal bed surface for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the Mediterranean low continues to push cold air from the east to Tyrol, these air masses are rather humid at lower levels. By tomorrow, the low pressure zone will move eastwards, a weak intermediate high may dominate for a short interim, but the frosty temperatures will remain with us for awhile. Mountain weather today: icy cold conditions with little wind. On the northern flank of the Alps it will often be foggy and overcast, accompanied by a few snowflakes. Only the summits will manage to poke out of the clouds as of 2500 m altitude. The mountain ranges south of the Inn Valley all the way to the Main Alpine Ridge, as well as the southern flank of the Alps, will be sunnier. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Light northerly to northeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will slowly subside.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe