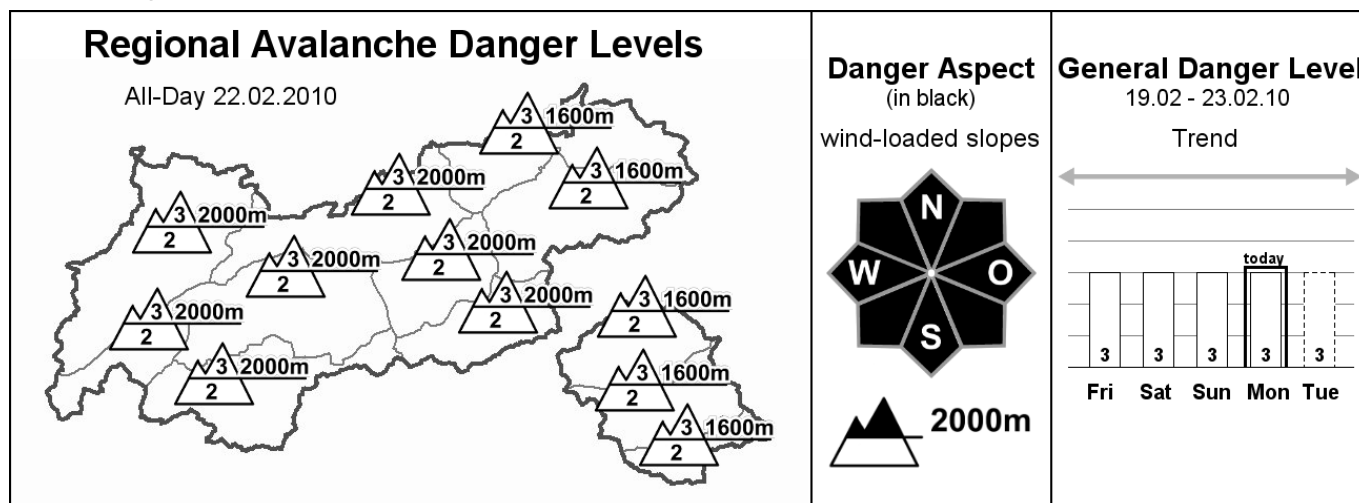


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 22.02.2010, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 2000 - Beware stormy southwesterly winds!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tyrol remains delicate and treacherous, the danger above approximately 2000 m is considerable widespread. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider is sufficient. In some areas avalanches can break through to the old snowpack and attain larger size. Caution: the brisk to stormy southwesterly winds will bring about numerous new snowdrift accumulations today. On sun bathed slopes, naturally triggered loose snow avalanches can be expected increasingly frequently over the course of the day which, due to the poor snow layering, can subsequently unleash slab avalanches as well.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday the wind shifted to southwesterly and increased significantly in velocity, leading to new snowdrift accumulations forming in high alpine regions and foehn exposed areas. The snow layering is overall unfavourable, and subject to great variation even across small surface areas: the base is often faceted and loosely packed; deposited atop it are layers of varying hardness and embedded hardened crusts. Fresh and older snowdrift accumulations are poorly bonded with the old snowpack far and wide, thus avalanches can be easily triggered. The instability of the snowpack has an alarm signal: settling sounds, so-called whumping noises, are warning indicators, as numerous recent avalanches have amply demonstrated.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather conditions: a large low pressure zone is spinning above the Atlantic. Tyrol lies at its forefront in a westerly to southwesterly air current and is being supplied with huge masses of humid air. On the southern flank of the Alps, dense clouds are caught by the alpine barrier. Mountain weather today: in a word, windy. The southerly wind will be very strong. Diffuse light, impeding the visibility, with dense cloudbanks sweeping across the sky at regular intervals. The higher summits may be shrouded in fog. During the day, significantly rising temperatures. In the Southern Alps overcast, with a few snowflakes only in the south. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 2 degrees. Brisk, blustery, at times storm strength southwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will subside only gradually.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe