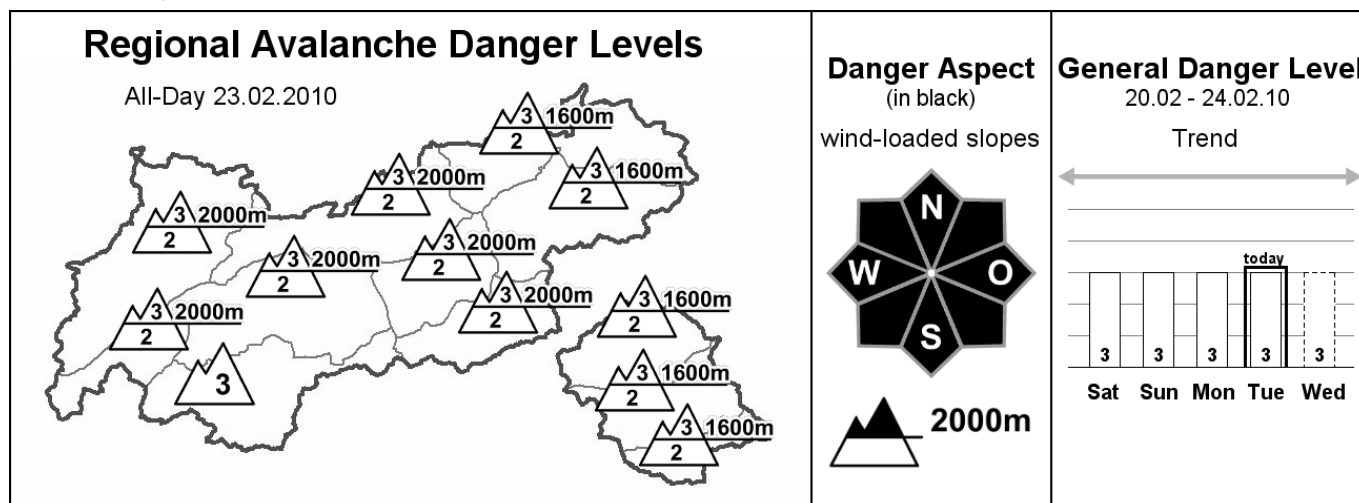


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 23.02.2010, at 07:30



Unfavourable backcountry touring conditions, considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, rather unfavourable conditions prevail, the avalanche danger above approximately 2000 m is still considerable widespread. The major hazard stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations which are poorly bonded with the layers beneath them. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and steep slopes in all expositions. Avalanches can be triggered by minimum additional loading, even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. On sun bathed slopes, isolated naturally triggered avalanches of loose snow are possible. At lower and intermediate altitudes on steep, grassy slopes, full depth snowslides can be released.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow layering is unfavourable throughout Tyrol: the base usually consists of faceted, loosely packed crystals with hardened crusts embedded inside. Atop these weak, trigger sensitive layers are varyingly thick layers of snowdrift. The bonding of older and fresh snowdrift to the old snowpack is thoroughly poor. Avalanches can thus be triggered with relative ease. Settling noises are a clear warning indicator of the snowpack's proneness to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tyrol still lies in a brisk southwesterly to westerly air current which is bringing mild air masses from the Atlantic to the Alps. At the same time, cloudbanks repeatedly sweep across the sky. Mountain weather today: variable states of cloudiness in the mountains, visibility somewhat impeded by diffuse light. The mountain summits are for the most part free of clouds. Temperatures have risen somewhat, freezing level during the day is at just below 2000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Strong southwesterly to westerly winds during the day, which will slacken off somewhat to moderate to brisk.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede only gradually.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe