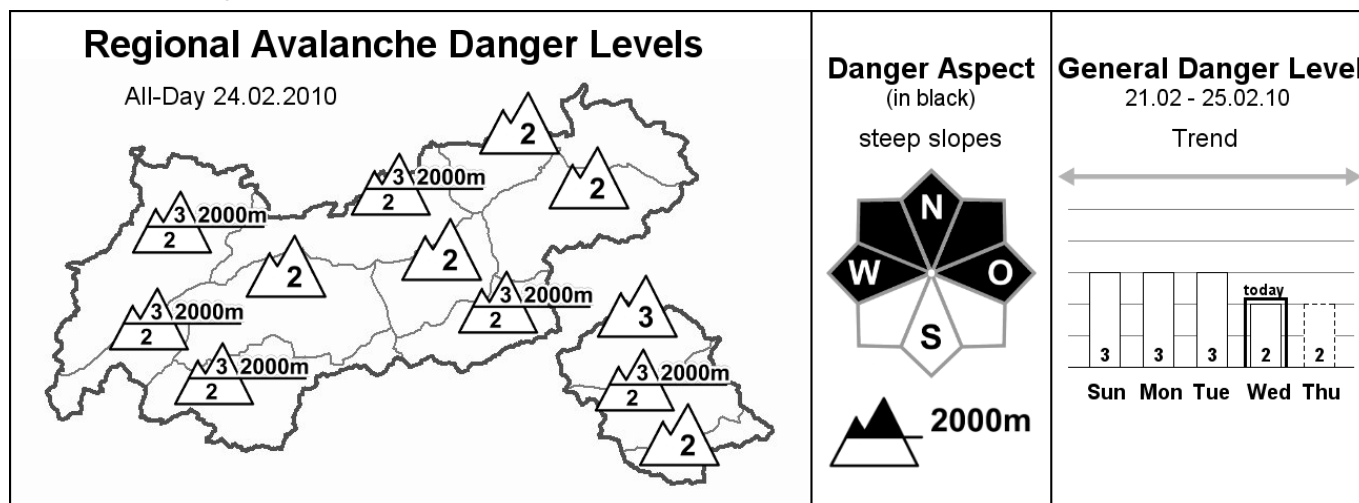


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 24.02.2010, at 07:30



Below 2000 m moderate avalanche danger widespread - In high alpine regions still considerable danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has subsided slightly, to moderate widespread below about 2000 m. Above that altitude the peril is still considerable in some places, particularly along the Main Alpine Ridge including the East Tyrolean Tauern ridge. Avalanche prone locations are to be found particularly on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes. Avalanches can be triggered both inside the surface snowdrift accumulations and inside the poorly consolidated old snowpack, usually by only minimum additional loading, even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider is sufficient. Conditions on well frequented ascents and descents are generally more favourable. Below about 2000 m, isolated naturally triggered moist sluffs and full depth wet snowslides can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

Intense solar radiation and mild temperatures are helping the layers of the snowpack nearest the surface to settle and consolidate up to intermediate altitudes. At low altitudes, the slopes are rapidly becoming bare of snow, which the foehn wind reinforces. Caution is still urged: the weak fundament consists largely of faceted, and thus very loosely packed snow crystals which are interspersed with hardened crusts. This trigger sensitive base is an ideal bed surface for the snowdrift accumulations lying on top of it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a westerly to southwesterly current will dominate weather conditions today and for the next few days, bringing unseasonably mild air masses to Tyrol. On Friday, a pronounced disturbance is expected, which may bring cold air temporarily to the Alps. Mountain weather today: variably cloudy with intermittent sunny spells. In high alpine regions it may be somewhat foggy at times. The dry phases will predominate, although brief showers with snowfall level at 1300 to 1600 m are possible. The Zillertal Alps and Tauern region as far as the Dolomites are more prone to showers. Temperature at 2000: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Generally light winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede a further increment.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe