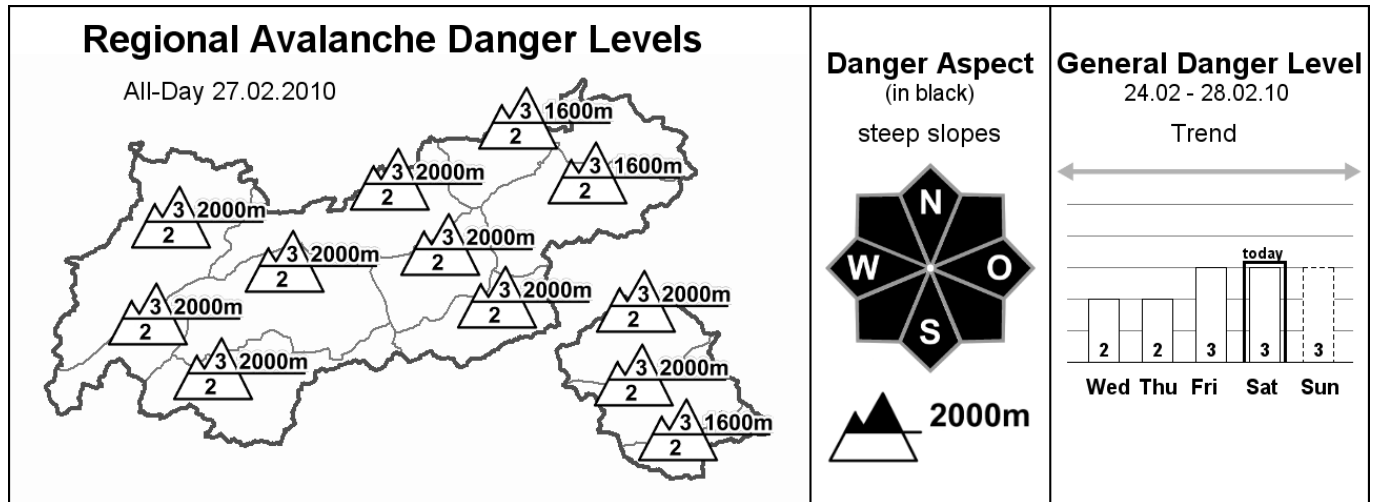


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 27.02.2010, at 07:30



Snowfall and winds create considerable avalanche danger widespread above approximately 2000 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is considerable widespread above approximately 2000 m. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes, wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions. Above all else, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering, even through minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Overall, touring conditions are unfavourable; extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche hazards is imperative, since the perils are difficult to recognize. A cautious route selection is essential. Below about 2000 m, naturally triggered moist sluffs and, on steep grassy slopes, even full depth snowslides can be expected today.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours above 1000 to 1500 m, there has been 10 to 15 cm of snowfall widespread. Along the Northern Alps and on the East Tyrolean Tauern ridge, there was as much as 20 cm. The snowfall was accompanied by strong to storm-strength southwesterly winds at high altitudes, which subsequently shifted to northwesterly and slackened off somewhat. Thus, the fresh fallen snow was immediately transported and new snowdrift accumulations were formed in all expositions. Fresh fallen snow and snowdrift cover and conceal a generally unfavourably layered old snowpack. The base consists of faceted, very loosely packed snow crystals. On top of that, older, somewhat consolidated layers of snowdrift are deposited. This fundament is prone to triggering, since the new snowdrift masses are poorly bonded to the old snowpack.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: an intermediate high pressure zone dominates our weather today. In the course of the day, the Alps will be struck by the van of a storm low which by tomorrow, Sunday, will move on from Portugal towards the North Sea and unleash a foehn wind storm in Tyrol. Mountain weather today: sunny with a few thin cloud veils above the peaks. Until after midday, the winds should present no problem in the mountains. This afternoon, the southerly wind will increase in velocity on the Main Ridge to begin with, towards evening it will be stormy everywhere. Temperatures will rise, the freezing level will be just under 2000 m at midday and rising. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 to minus 9 degrees. Initially, moderate southwesterly to northwesterly wind at high altitudes, this afternoon the southwesterly wind will become much stronger. In the evening it will reach storm strength, during the night gale strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst stormy to gale-strength foehn winds on Sunday, avalanche danger will escalate.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe