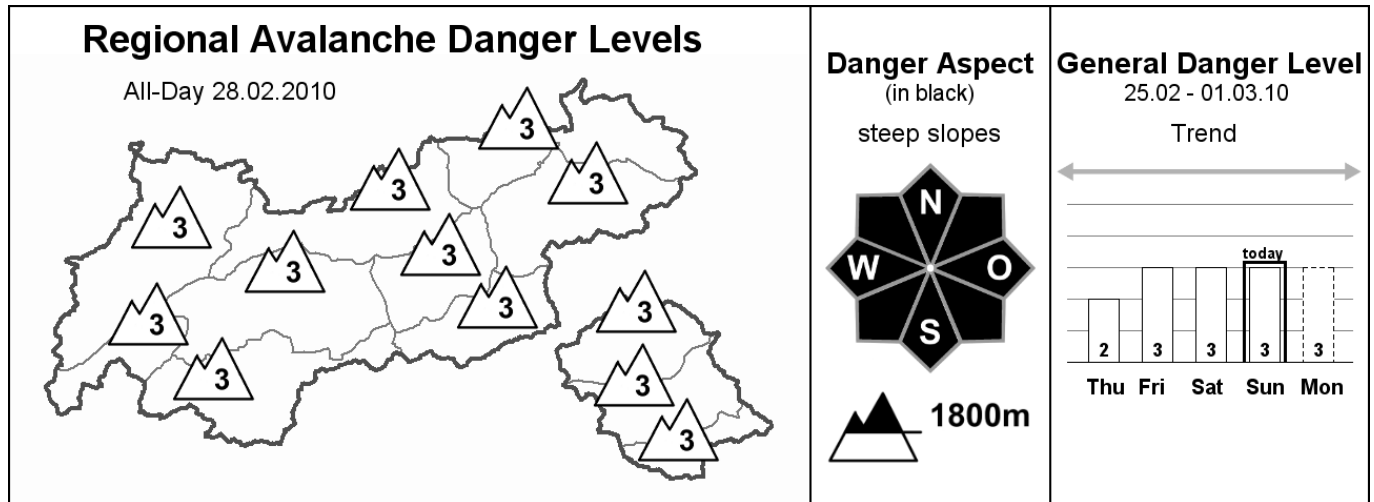


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 28.02.2010, at 07:30



Critical avalanche situation: very unfavourable touring conditions, considerable danger, foehn storm

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tyrol is critical widespread. The level of peril lies at the uppermost edge of "considerable", in other words a highly dangerous Level 3. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes, wind loaded slopes and areas near ridge lines in all expositions, particularly above approximately 1800 m. Avalanches can be triggered by minimum additional loading, even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider is sufficient. Only very reduced touring possibilities today, skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs require extensive experience. If at all, they are best limited to highly frequented terrain. In addition, below about 1800 m, naturally triggered moist snowslides and full depth wet snowslides can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow layering this winter is highly divergent, even over small surface areas, and is in general highly unfavourable: the base consists largely of faceted, loosely packed snow crystals, usually interspersed with hardened crusts. On top of these unbonded layers which are highly prone to triggering are layers of snowdrift of varying depth which are, in turn, blanketed with freshly formed snowdrift brought about by the most recent foehn storms. Settling noises, naturally triggered avalanches and numerous avalanches triggered by people are demonstrative proof of just how high the likelihood of triggering is. Since the storm-strength foehn wind will barely slacken off today, newly formed snowdrift accumulations can be expected, which will create numerous new danger zones.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a storm low is moving towards Denmark and is exercising its influence on North Tyrol, mostly through stormy winds; south of the Main Alpine Ridge, moist air masses are collected at the Alpine barrier. Tomorrow, Monday, an intermediate high will make itself felt. On Tuesday, a cold front will arrive and temperatures will drop. Mountain weather today: storm strength winds all day long, making it dangerous to linger in exposed areas. The wind will force the clouds to disperse and permit sunshine to cover the skies. Temperatures will decrease this evening. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 3 to zero degrees. Stormy, in places even gale strength southerly to southeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will gradually recede.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe