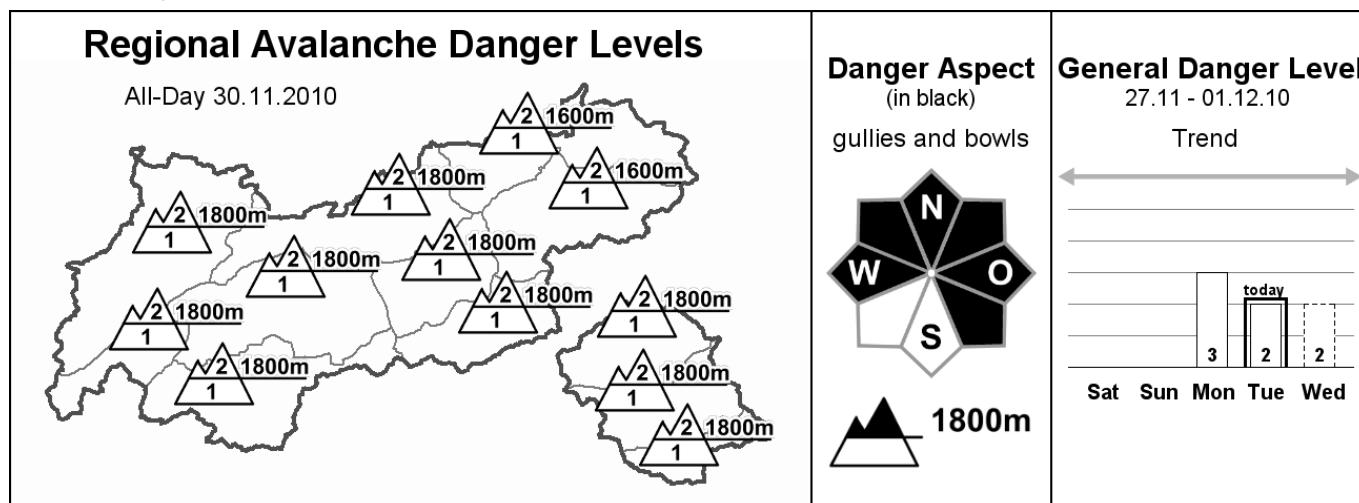


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 30.11.2010, at 07:30



The major peril for backcountry skiers and freeriders: fresh snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has subsided somewhat, below the treeline it is now moderate. Below about 1600 m, the danger is low. The critical danger spots are the recently formed snowdrift accumulations in very steep terrain. Those which arose over the weekend due to the very strong southerly winds can be triggered by large additional loading; those formed by the westerly wind can be unleashed even by minimum additional loading in places, but are usually small sized and easier to recognize than older drifts now blanketed over with fresh fallen snow. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, isolated slab avalanches can be triggered in very steep, shady terrain in transition areas from shallow to deep snow which would fracture from a layer of depth hoar near the ground. Full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes are possible, particularly in the areas of East Tyrol with lots of snow.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths tend to increase from north to south. Due to wind influence, snow depths above the treeline are irregular and highly varied. Inside the snowpack are currently three crucial layers: a raincrust near the ground, especially at low and intermediate altitudes up to 2500 m (above that altitude it is thinner); the loosely packed snow atop that layer; and the snowdrift accumulations which have been deposited atop that. The snowdrift masses at higher altitudes and near ridge lines are often extremely hard. In high alpine regions on shady slopes (usually atop glacial ice) is also a layer of depth hoar from autumn.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: Tyrol is wedged in a pocket of dry air between a low above northern Spain and a low above eastern Europe. The high altitude currents have shifted to southwesterly, bringing foehn conditions to the northern flank of the Alps. Mountain weather today: good mountain weather conditions, ample sunshine, clouds only at high altitudes, thus not impeding the light. In addition, temperatures will rise a bit, although some wind is anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 13 to minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 17 to minus 10 degrees. Moderate to brisk southwesterly winds, in foehn exposed areas the wind will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe