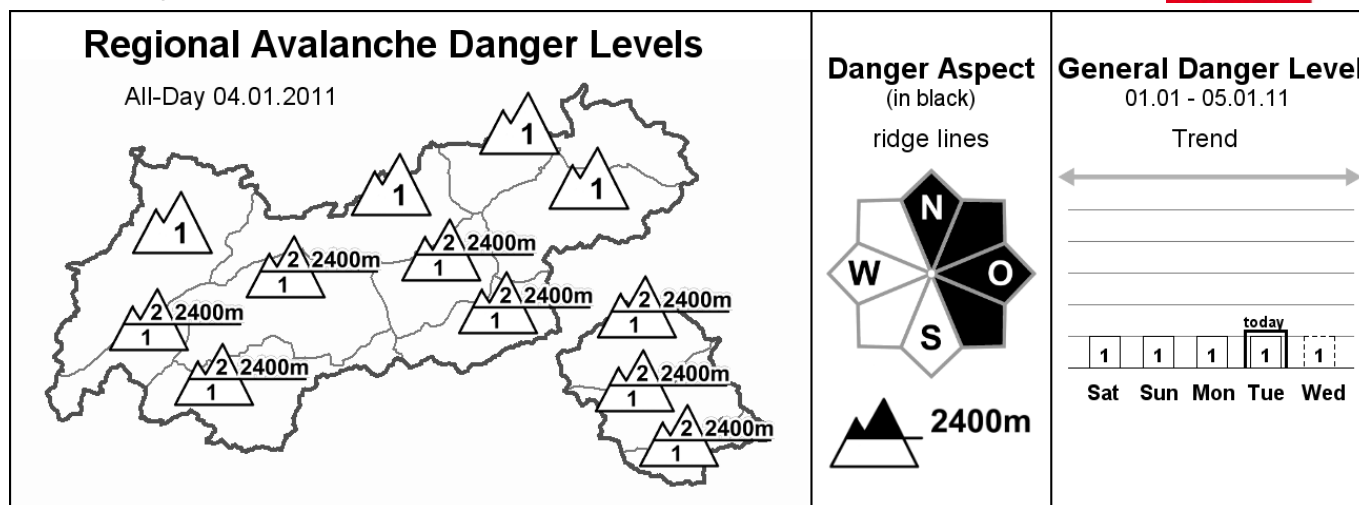


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 04.01.2011, at 07:30



Favourable backcountry touring conditions amidst low avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The backcountry touring conditions in Tyrol are currently favourable far and wide. The avalanche danger is low widespread, above approximately 2400 m the danger level is moderate from region to region. The major peril stems from freshly formed, small sized snowdrift masses which are to be found mainly in high alpine, northwest to north to southeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines, gullies and bowls. In general, high additional loading is required to trigger an avalanche, i.e. from a group of skiers or freeriders.

SNOW LAYERING

The present, high winter weather phase accompanied by low temperatures aids the transformation of the snowpack: the snow crystals grow, become increasingly faceted and loose, which decreases the snowpack stress and lowers the likelihood of triggering. However, caution is still urged, since precisely these conditions also further the forming of surface hoar, which is particularly troublesome in high alpine, wind exposed areas adjacent to ridge lines. In such places, isolated, small sized snowdrift masses can form which are poorly bonded with the surface hoar beneath them.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the outer radius of a weak disturbance is moving across Tyrol today. Over the next few days, foehn wind conditions will gradually dominate in a mild, southwesterly air current. Mountain weather today: quite good mountain weather. Around midday, the sun will be only diffusely visible for a short interim, initially in western regions, later on in eastern regions as well. The mountain summit regions will remain cloudless. This afternoon, the skies will clear up again from the west. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Moderate westerly winds on the northern rim of the Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing favourable backcountry skiing conditions, for the most part

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe