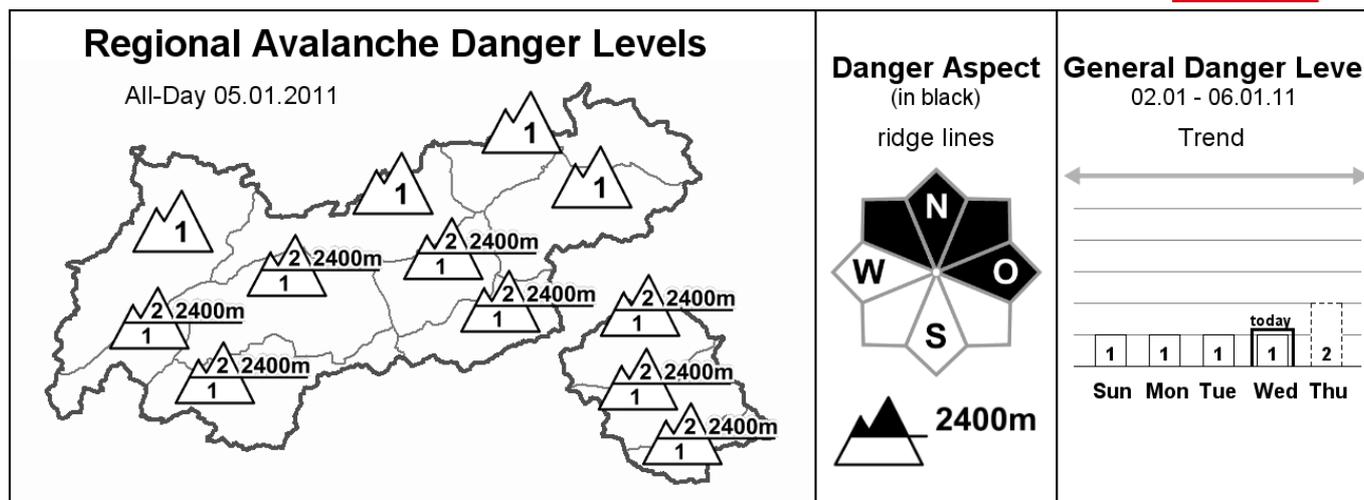


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 05.01.2011, at 07:30



Favourable backcountry touring conditions persist, avalanche danger mostly low

AVALANCHE DANGER

The backcountry touring conditions are still favourable in general, the danger level is low in widespread areas. Avalanche prone locations are to be found mainly in steep, northwest to north to southeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines, in gullies and bowls above approximately 2400 m. Triggering an avalanche is generally possible only through large additional loading, i.e. a group of backcountry skiers or freeriders. Caution: due to the increasingly strong foehn winds today, the avalanche prone locations will become more frequent, and particularly in high alpine regions, the hazards will escalate.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has now become thoroughly faceted and loose, which has decreased its internal stress to a great extent. Thus, the proneness to triggering has sunk significantly. Caution is urged towards the surface hoar which has formed on the uppermost snowpack surface, especially due to the ever stronger southerly winds. These will give rise to fresh, small-sized snowdrift accumulations which are only poorly bonded with the surface hoar, making them trigger sensitive.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: flowing outwards from a low over the British Isles, a westerly current will predominate over Tyrol today and tomorrow, bringing foehn wind conditions to the mountains, mild and moist Atlantic air masses to the land. From Friday until the weekend, a southwesterly current, foehn in North Tyrol, next to no precipitation. Mountain weather today: lots of sunshine in the mountains of Tyrol, with outstanding visibility. To begin with it will be warmer in the mountains than in the valleys. Temperatures will rise appreciably over the course of the day at all altitudes. On the Main Alpine Ridge on the northern flank of the Alps, southerly foehn winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate, in some places brisk westerly to southwesterly winds; in the Tux Alps, the southerly winds will be of strong velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasingly strong foehn winds will create new snowdrift accumulations, escalating avalanche danger somewhat.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe