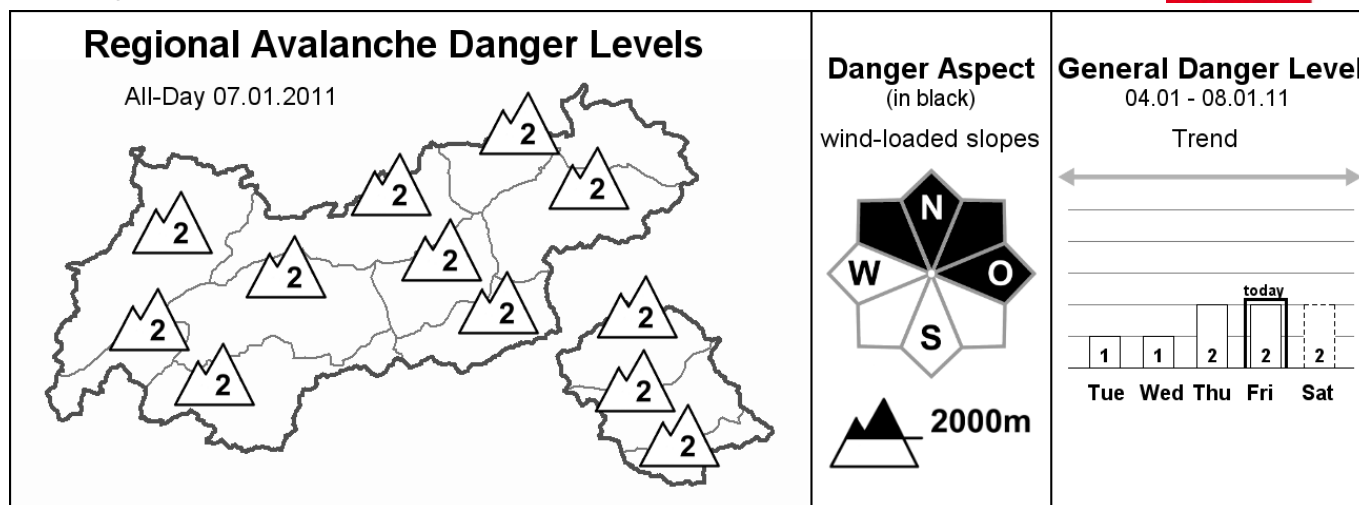


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 07.01.2011, at 07:30



Avalanche danger generally moderate - Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is moderate widespread. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in northwest to north to southeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines and steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. In particular, fresh snowdrift accumulations are relatively easy to trigger, they can be released even by minimum additional loading in isolated cases. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack is forfeiting its firmness, due to the mild temperatures. This will heighten the danger of naturally triggered avalanches, moist sluffs and full depth snowslides, making caution imperative.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths in North Tyrol are currently below average. The present foehn conditions will deteriorate the snow depths still further. In East Tyrol, snow depths are slightly above average. Strong southwesterly winds have led to new, small sized snowdrift accumulations forming, particularly in high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines. These snowdrift masses are poorly bonded with the old snowpack surface, which is often loosely packed, making them quite prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tyrol lies at the forefront of a low, whose center is over the Atlantic, in a mild southwesterly current. In North Tyrol, foehn wind conditions prevail and it is generally dry. On the southern flank of the Alps, barrier clouds cling to the mountain flanks. The foehn will not break down until the beginning of next week. Mountain weather today: very windy in some regions amidst mild temperatures, above freezing to about 2700 m. Moderately to heavily overcast, with quite diffuse visibility. Apart from the Main Alpine Ridge, the Northern Alps are generally free of cloud. The Southern Alps are under heavy cloud cover, accompanied by snow flurries in South Tyrol's mountains in particular. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 2 and plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 degrees. Strong to stormy southwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe