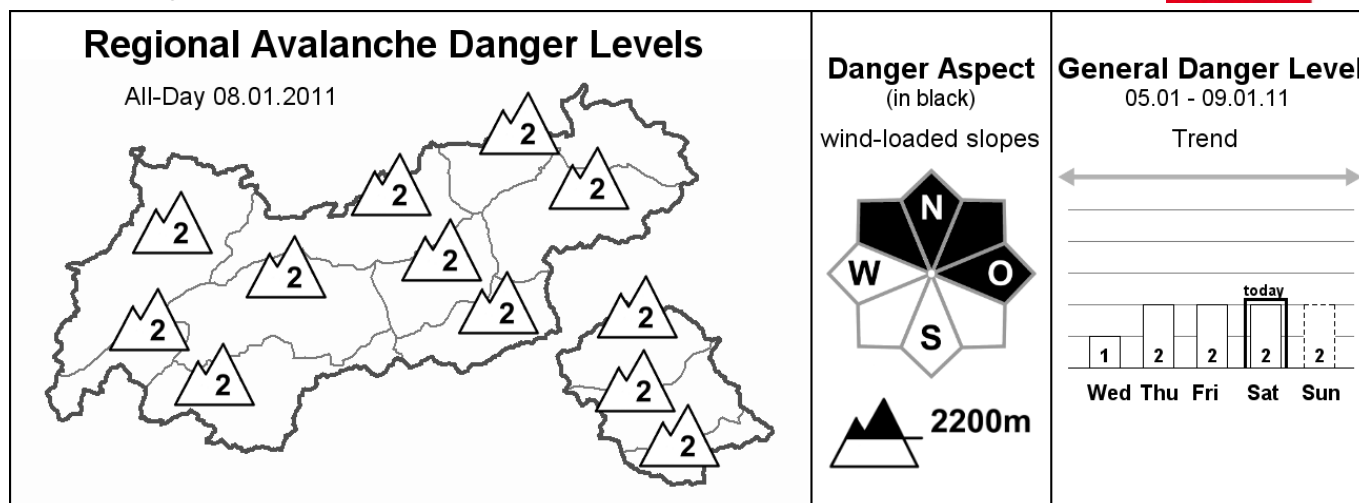


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 08.01.2011, at 07:30



Beware high altitude snowdrift, low altitude snowslides

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is moderate widespread. In high alpine regions, caution is urged towards the snowdrift accumulations which are being ongoingly formed. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes and in areas near ridge lines above approximately 2200 m, particularly in northwestern to northern to southeastern exposition. In isolated cases, avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack is becoming increasingly wet. Thus, naturally triggered moist sluffs and full depth snowslides can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

At low and intermediate altitudes, the persistent foehn wind is significantly decreasing the already below average snow depths in North Tyrol. In high alpine regions, new, usually small sized snowdrift accumulations are continually being formed amidst the strong to stormy southwesterly wind. These snowdrift masses are deposited atop a loose, old snowpack surface of faceted crystals in many places, often atop surface hoar, to both of which the bonding is relatively poor, making them quite prone to triggering. At low and intermediate altitudes, due to the mild temperatures and, in some places, rainfall, the snowpack is losing its firmness.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tyrol lies at the forefront of a pronounced low pressure system over the Atlantic in the grips of a mild southwesterly current which has brought foehn conditions to the northern flank of the Alps. On Monday, a cold front will traverse the land, followed by a westerly current which will renew the flow of mild air. Mountain weather today: apart from the summits of the Main Alpine Ridge, the Northern Alps are free of cloud. However, visibility is extremely hazy in many regions, due to the high altitude cloudbanks. In addition, it is mild and very windy in places. Freezing level is 2200 m. In the Southern Alps, low cloudbanks will keep conditions gloomy, accompanied by light snow flurries in places. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Brisk to strong southwesterly to southerly winds, in foehn exposed regions the winds will attain storm velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift masses at high altitudes, snowslides at low altitudes.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe