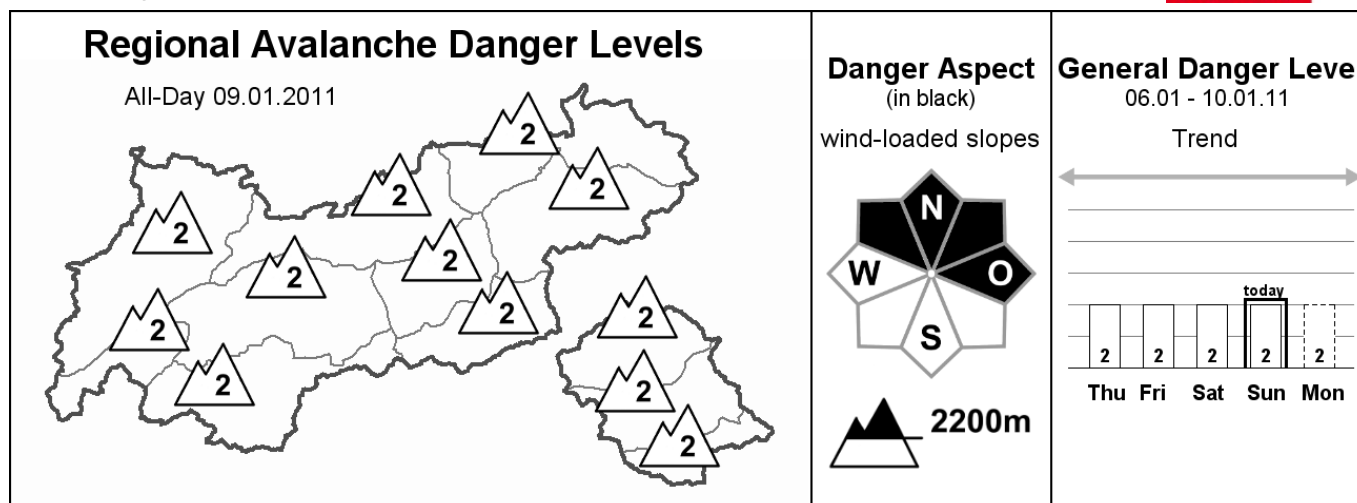


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 09.01.2011, at 07:30



Full depth snowslides at low altitudes - Beware fresh snowdrift in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is predominantly moderate. At low and intermediate altitudes, the thoroughly wet snowpack is the source of the major hazard; isolated naturally triggered moist sluffs can be expected. On steep, grass-covered slopes, full depth snowslides are also possible. In high alpine regions, the major peril stems from the small sized snowdrift accumulations which are being formed ongoingly. Avalanche prone locations most often occur on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines above 2200 m in northwestern to northern to southeastern exposition. In isolated cases, these snowdrift masses can be triggered even by minimum additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The persistent foehn winds have deteriorated the already modest snow depths still further at low and intermediate altitudes. The still existing snowpack is thoroughly wet far and wide and has forfeited its firmness an additional increment. In high alpine regions, the strong to stormy southwesterly wind is continually giving rise to fresh, relatively small sized snowdrift masses. Since they are usually deposited atop an old snowpack consisting of loose, faceted snow crystals, the bonding is poor, making it highly prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: at the forefront of several spiraling low pressure systems over western Europe, Tyrol is still in the grips of a mild southwesterly current. On Monday, a disturbance will traverse the land, behind which a western current is gradually forming. It will remain mild. Mountain weather today: mild and windy, freezing level at 2200 m. The peaks will be free of cloud until this afternoon, visibility hazy from region to region. Towards evening, it will turn increasingly cloudy. In the Southern Alps, clouds and fog will keep conditions overcast, but it will generally remain dry. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Brisk to strong southwesterly to southerly winds, often attaining storm velocity in gusts.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Depending on amount of snowfall, the avalanche danger may rise.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe