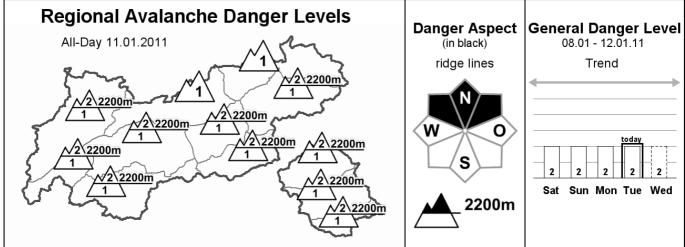
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Tuesday, 11.01.2011, at 07:30





Small, loose-snow avalanches in extremely steep terrain, snowslides on steep, grassy slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

Quite favourable backcountry touring conditions prevail. However, there is too little snow to provide true enjoyment. Above approximately 2200 m, the danger level is moderate, below that altitude it is low. Isolated avalanche prone locations at high altitudes are to be found in the snowdrift accumulations on northwest to north to northeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines, where even minimum additional loading can trigger avalanches. In addition, the solar radiation and daytime warming cycle will cause loose-snow avalanches in extremely steep, sunny terrain. Full depth snowslides are a hazard especially on low and intermediate altitude very steep, grass-covered slopes. For that reason, the areas directly beneath glide cracks should be avoided whenever possible.

SNOW LAYERING

It snowed over the last 24 hours, in southern East Tyrol and in Ausserfern there was as much as 10 cm, elsewhere less than 5 cm. Below about 1400 m, the existing snowpack moistened further through the rainfall in many places. Significantly weak layers embedded in the snowpack are the snow surface exposed to very low temperatures until the middle of last week, usually above approximately 2200 m, consisting of loosely packed, faceted crystals, whose bonding with the small snowdrift masses on top of it is generally poor, especially on shady slopes. On the other hand, the surface hoar which was prevalent below 2000 m has utterly disintegrated due to the mild temperatures.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: air currents continually alternating between southwesterly and northwesterly are delivering highly variable weather conditions. Towards Thursday, a warm front will bring widespread rainfall and temperatures will rise. On the weekend, weak high pressure and very mild. Mountain weather today: at intermediate altitudes, high fog or residual cloud can impair visibility, otherweise it will be sunny on the northern flank of the Alps. Tonight a bit of snowfall is expected. On the southern flank of the Alps, the residual cloud will persist, a small amount of light snowfall is likely from place to place. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Moderate southwesterly wind, only in regions very exposed to foehn will the winds be strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe





