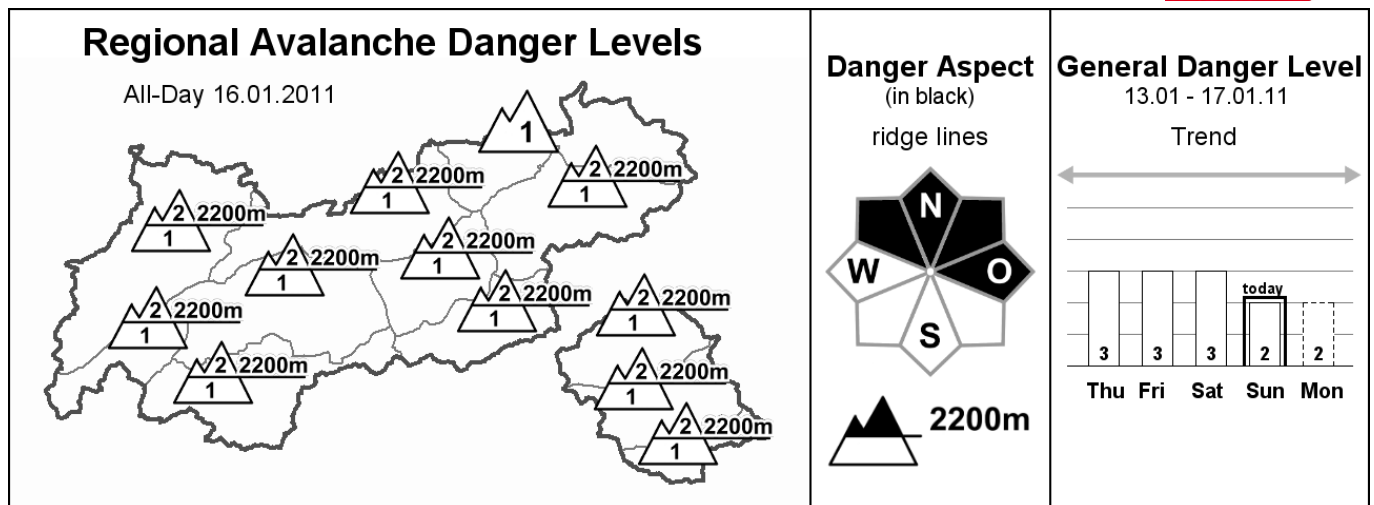


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 16.01.2011, at 07:30



Caution urged towards snowdrift accumulations on steep, shady slopes above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has receded significantly. Above approximately 2200 m, moderate danger prevails; below that altitude, low danger. In spite of the high temperatures, the danger will only rise slightly over the course of the day, even on very steep, sunny slopes, since the very dry air prevents the snowpack from becoming so wet. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily above approximately 2200 m on very steep, northwest to north to east facing slopes, where recently formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered generally through large additional loading, but in transition areas from shallow to deep snow also through minimum additional loading in isolated cases. Hazardous zones are especially prevalent in areas adjacent to ridge lines. The snowpack's proneness to triggering increases somewhat with ascending altitude. Where the snowpack is moist, isolated, small sized moist sluffs can be triggered in very steep terrain. Full depth snowslides have become unlikely, except seldom on steep, grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack continued to stabilise last night, due to the clear skies. On the uppermost surface below 2200 m in all expositions there is generally a 1-2 cm thick, brittle melt-freeze crust. Above that altitude such a crust is evident primarily on sun-exposed slopes. In the southern regions, the melt-freeze crust is often capable of bearing loads, at least at low and intermediate regions. Inside the snowpack, there is a weak layer above approximately 2200 m, where the snowdrift accumulations which formed this week, particularly in northwestern to northern to eastern expositions, are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Before the snowfall, the old snowpack consisted of faceted, loosely packed crystals which formed during the extended period of low temperatures ten days ago. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, on shady slopes there is a layer of depth hoar near the ground from early winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a high extends from the Alps over the Mediterranean all the way to northern Africa. The dominant air masses are dry and far too mild for the season. As of tomorrow, the high will gradually weaken from the west, but determine weather conditions in Tyrol through Tuesday. Mountain weather today: sunny, not much wind and temperatures above freezing up to high alpine regions. Visibility in the dry air will be outstanding. Particularly on south facing slopes, the snow will quickly begin to melt, the freezing level will reach 3300 m this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: plus 2 degrees. Light northwesterly to westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Conditions just like springtime, with a daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe