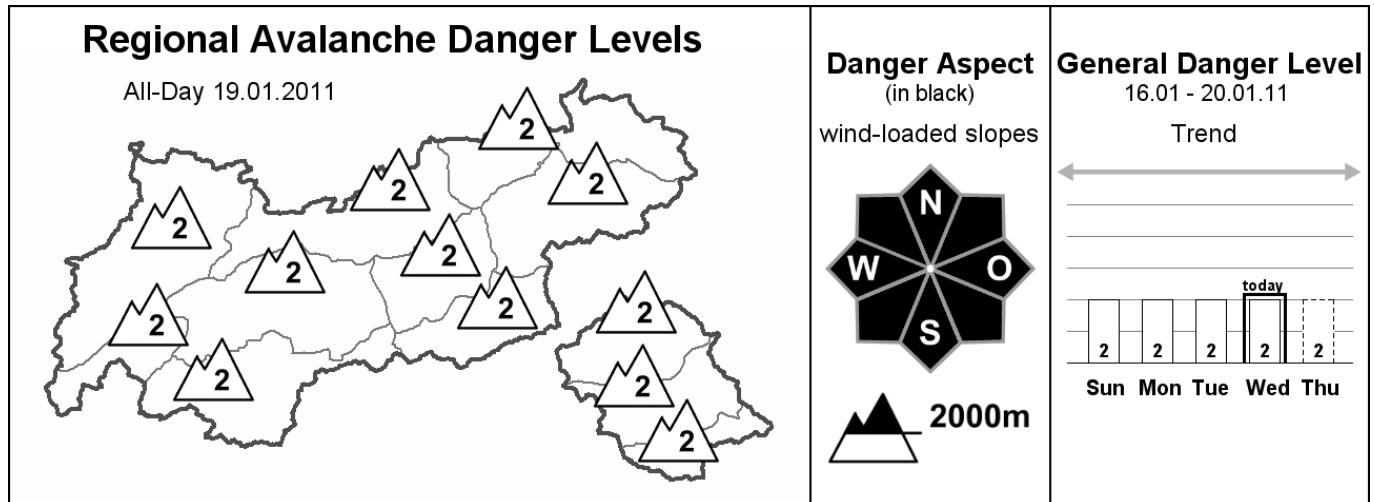


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 19.01.2011, at 07:30



Slightly rising avalanche danger due to snowfall

AVALANCHE DANGER

Rainfall at low altitudes and a bit of fresh fallen snow at high altitudes have heightened the avalanche danger somewhat, to the level of moderate widespread. The major peril stems from the freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Transition areas from deep to shallow snow should also be assessed with great caution., although avalanches generally require large additional loading to be triggered. Below 2000 m, naturally triggered full depth snowslides are possible in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack up to about 2400 m has become increasingly moist over the last few days, due to the mild temperatures; on steep, south facing slopes this is the case even higher up. A melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads has formed on the surface in many places. In high alpine regions, the snowpack is highly irregular. In some places, the surface is compacted by winds or has a breakable crust, in other places it is loosely packed. Relatively small fresh snowdrift accumulations are expected to form over the course of the day.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a cold front will traverse the land in the morning hours, followed by a narrow low extending from Finland to the Alps, bringing cold, moderately moist air masses from northern Europe. Northern foehn wind effect on the southern flank of the Alps. Mountain weather today: the peaks are shrouded in cloud and fog and it is snowing, with the focal point in the Northern Alps. By tomorrow morning, about 5 - 10 cm of new fallen snow is expected. Temperatures will drop and the winds, initially brisk, will slacken off. Between the Brenta and the southern Dolomites, it will remain largely dry. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Moderate to brisk westerly winds, shifting to northwesterly over the course of the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Escalating danger level due to dry slab avalanches

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe