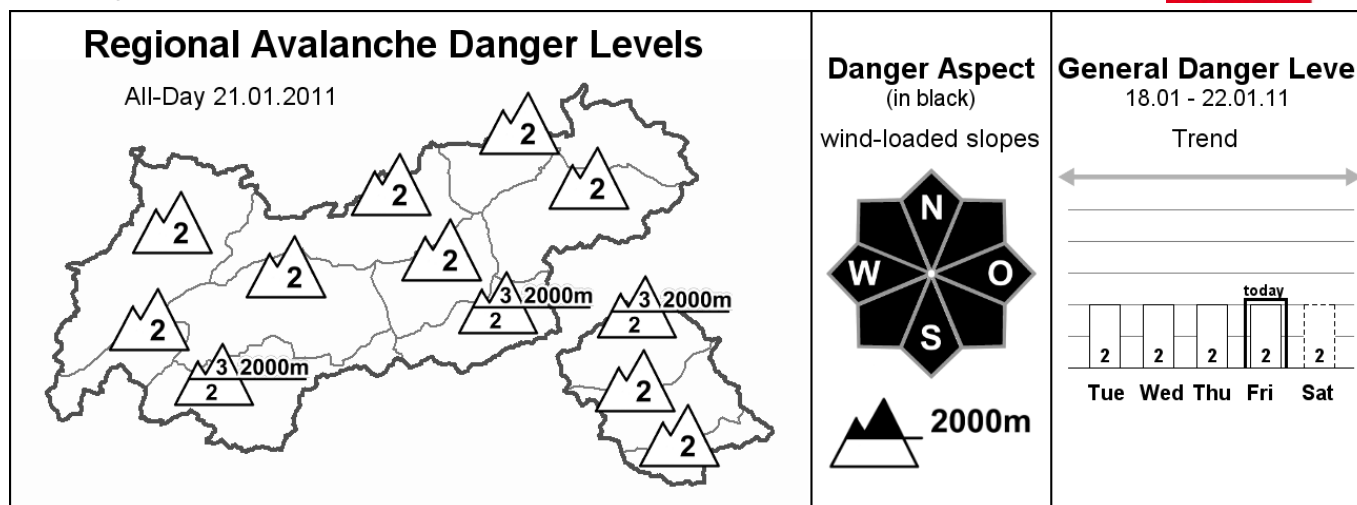


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 21.01.2011, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger regionally above 2000 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol is moderate widespread, although regionally above 2000 m it is also considerable. This is particularly the case in the backcountry touring regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, where snowfall was heaviest. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are generally only small sized, but in isolated cases they can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Older snowdrift accumulations have often been covered over by fresh fallen snow, making them very difficult to recognize in outlying terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

In the last 24 hours in North Tyrol there was only a small amount of snowfall. Since Wednesday morning there has been 10 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow along the Northern Alps, slightly more locally. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and the East Tyrolean Tauern Ridge, there was 15 to 25 cm of new fallen snow; in remaining East Tyrol, significantly less. The overall snow depths in North Tyrol are below average, in East Tyrol they are average or slightly above average. Moderate to brisk northerly to northeasterly winds have given rise to fresh, small sized snowdrift accumulations. At low and intermediate altitudes, both new fallen snow and snowdrift of recent days have often been deposited atop a thin melt freeze crust. In high alpine regions, the surface of the old snowpack is compacted by wind in some places, yet in others it is still quite loosely packed. Due to the persistently low temperatures, snowdrift accumulations tend to be brittle, making them quite prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the Alps are wedged between a high over the British Isles and a low over the Mediterranean, caught in a weak northern barrier effect. On Saturday, the air will dry out from the north somewhat; as of Sunday night the next disturbance will arrive from the north. Mountain weather today: from the Northern Limestone Alps to the Tauern, intermittently poor visibility or, at very least, hazy skies from fog, cloud and light snowfall. In inneralpine regions and particularly in high alpine regions in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, bright spells are anticipated with some sunshine. Sunny conditions on the southern flank of the Alps, accompanied by brisk northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 11 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 20 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds at high altitudes, on the southern flank of the Alps the winds will be intermittently strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger slowly receding

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe