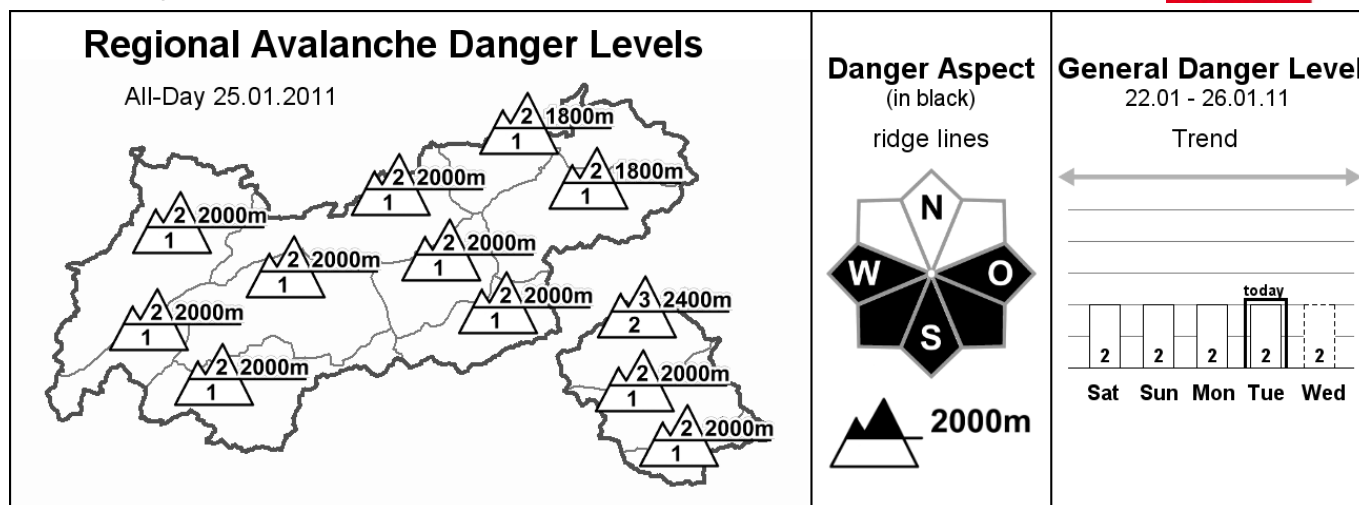


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 25.01.2011, at 07:30



The major danger for backcountry skiers: fresh snowdrift masses, often near ridge lines

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. In the eastern part of the Northern Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps, low danger prevails below about 1800 m; above that altitude the danger is moderate. In the remaining regions of Tyrol, this dividing line is at 2000 m. The situation in the East Tyrolean Tauern is less favourable, as well as in some parts of the southern Ötztal Alps, where the winds have been stronger at high altitudes, giving rise to new snowdrift accumulations. In general, the major peril for backcountry skiers lies in the recently formed snowdrift masses which are found most frequently in very steep, east to south to west facing areas adjacent to ridge lines. The frequency of these danger zones tends to increase with ascending altitude. Further hazardous zones are still found in isolated cases in very steep terrain of northern exposition above approximately 2000 m, where the old snowpack can be triggered particularly through large additional loading. This is especially the case in large, wind protected bowls.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been snowfall, particularly in the eastern parts of North Tyrol. Most often there was 10 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow, in the eastern part of North Tyrol there was as much as 35 cm in places. There was little wind influence for most of it, thus the snow is loosely packed. Only at higher altitudes where the wind was stronger was the new fallen snow transported. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are currently to be found in borderline areas between loosely packed, cold, fresh fallen snow and the snowdrift masses which have been deposited on top of it. In some places, however, a loosely packed, faceted layer, which formed at the beginning of January during an extended cold period, still is a certain danger. This is especially the case in shady terrain between about 2000 and 2600 m. Such small-surfaced spots can also be found on knolls and broad ridges in other expositions.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the Alps are still on the eastern rim of a high, centered over the Atlantic, in the grips of a moist-cold northwesterly air current. Mountain weather today: predominantly heavy cloud cover in the Northern Alps. From the Karwendel to the Kitzbühel Alps intermittent light snowfall, intensifying tonight to moderately heavy snowfall. From the Ortler over the Dolomites to the Carnic Alps it will be sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation. Winds will give rise to new snowdrift near ridge lines.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe