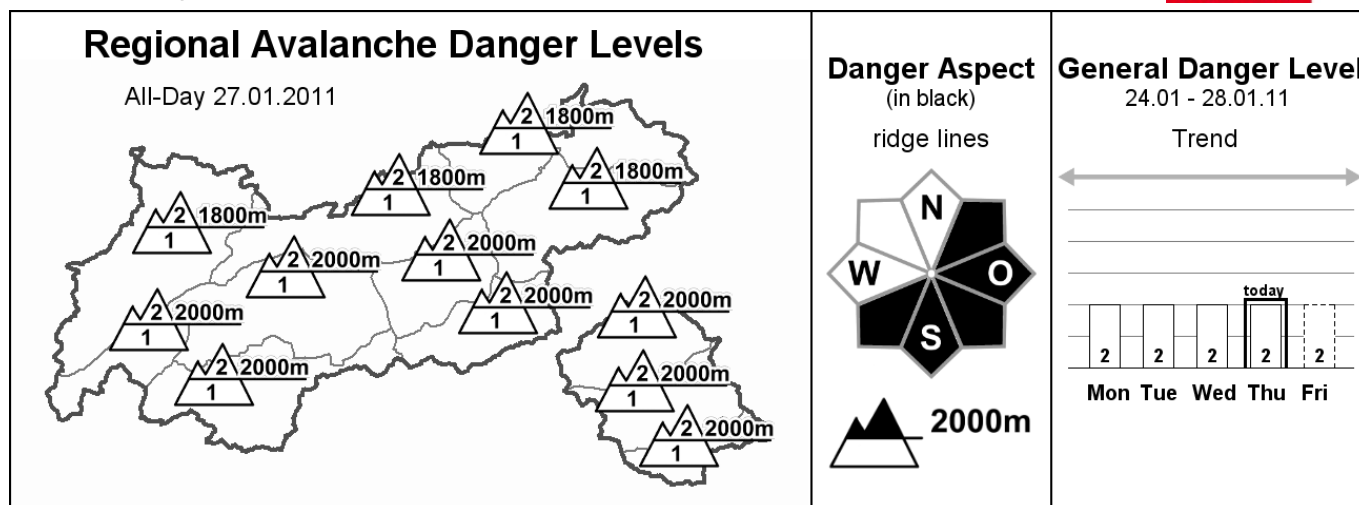


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 27.01.2011, at 07:30



Frequent loosely packed snow avalanches from rocky terrain

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above the treeline, moderate danger now generally prevails, below that altitude it is low. The most critical sectors are currently the areas adjacent to ridge lines, where on northeast to south to southwest facing slopes the most recently formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered, primarily by large additional loading but in isolated cases even by minimum additional loading. Experience in assessing avalanche hazards permits backcountry skiers to easily recognize these spots, however. Caution is urged in very steep terrain on northern slopes above approximately 2200 m, where the old snowpack can often be triggered by large additional loading, especially where the snow is shallow. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, this is not a danger, due to the intense wind influence throughout the winter. The solar radiation will trigger avalanches of loosely packed snow from rock-rippled terrain. In addition, at low altitudes in those regions where it snowed heavily in the north and east of North Tyrol, isolated full depth snowslides are likely on steep, grass covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has now settled and stabilised. That means that the recently formed snowdrift accumulations are becoming more difficult to disturb. In general, the proneness to triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude. A potential bed surface for avalanches is the borderline surface between cold, loosely packed new fallen snow and the fresh snowdrift atop it. Further isolated potential bed surfaces are to be found in steep, north facing terrain above approximately 2200 m, more seldom in shallow snow areas of other expositions, e.g. on broad ridges with little snow, where in some places there is still a faceted layer from January.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the Alps are at the southern rim of a high stretching from Great Britain to southern Scandinavia. Tonight the northern edge of Tyrol will be brushed by moist, high altitude cold air. Thereafter the high in the north will move eastwards, becoming the dominant weather influence in Tyrol until well into next week. Mountain weather today: quite sunny and little wind. Due to the deep wintery temperatures, the snow will remain powdery. High cirrus clouds moving past, especially south of the Main Alpine Ridge, will remain far beneath summit level. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Light northwesterly to westerly winds; below 1500 m, the winds will be easterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable backcountry touring conditions far and wide.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe