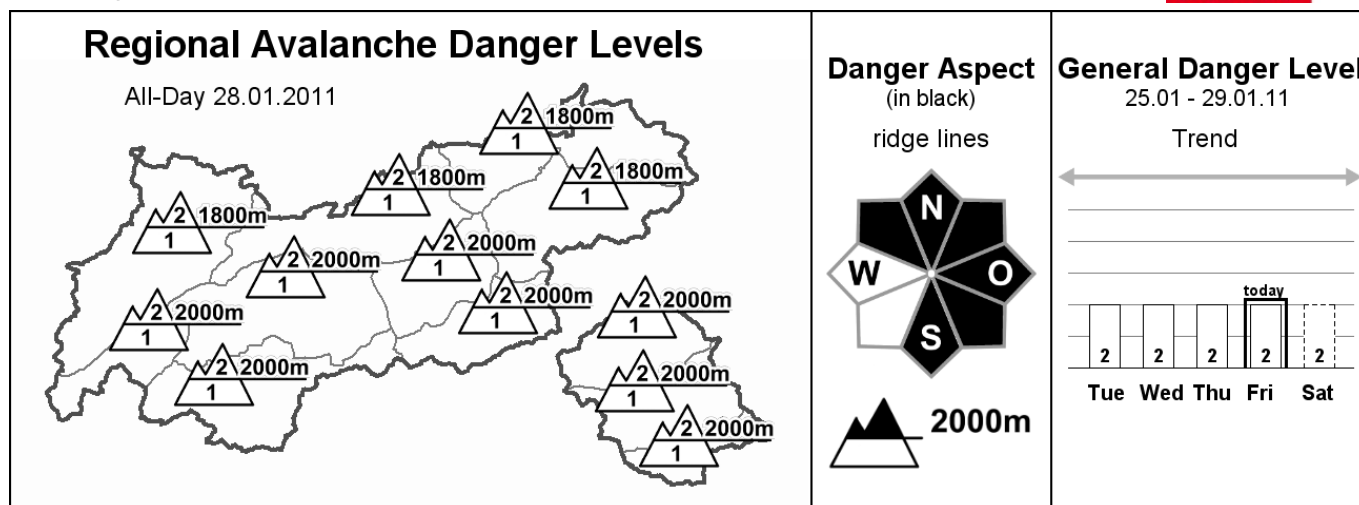


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 28.01.2011, at 07:30



Caution urged most of all towards fresh snowdrift near ridge lines

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2000 m in the northern and eastern regions of North Tyrol above approximately 1800 m, moderate danger prevails; below that altitude the danger is low. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders are to be found primarily in recently formed snowdrift accumulations, especially frequent in very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines. Since the southerly wind was blowing more strongly last night, particularly at high altitudes, shady terrain near ridge lines is now more at risk. The proneness to triggering of these snowdrift masses increases with ascending altitude, making it possible to trigger avalanches even through minimum additional loading in isolated cases. The advantage is that with a certain amount of experience, these danger zones can be easily recognized in general. Caution is also urged towards large, wind protected, very steep bowls in the shade, where between about 2200 and 2700 m the old snowpack can be triggered in isolated cases, usually through large additional loading, particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow. Due to solar radiation, small sized, loosely packed snow avalanches are likely today in rock-rippled terrain of southern exposition.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is generally quite well structured, although freshly formed snowdrift masses are poorly bonded with the cold, loose layer of new fallen snow directly beneath it in places. The higher the altitude, the more trigger sensitive such snowdrift masses are. Further potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are still to be found in isolated cases on north facing slopes between about 2200 and 2700 m, plus small surface danger zones also in other expositions on broad ridges with shallow snow. The culprits here are the faceted, loosely packed snow crystals which formed at the beginning of January.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a powerful high, extending from the British Isles to the Black Sea. Over the next few days, it will reign supreme over the Alps and bring quiet winter weather. The temperatures will rise incrementally, especially in the mountains. Mountain weather today: marvellous weather conditions are anticipated in many mountain regions, amidst sunshine and outstanding visibility. High-fog like clouds at intermediate altitudes may prove bothersome this morning in the Northern Alps and parts of the Inn Valley. In East Tyrol and in the South Tyrolean Dolomites, some clouds to begin with, which are expected to disperse later on in the day. Light to moderate southerly to easterly winds at high altitudes. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 11 to minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 to minus 10 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant changes anticipated.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe