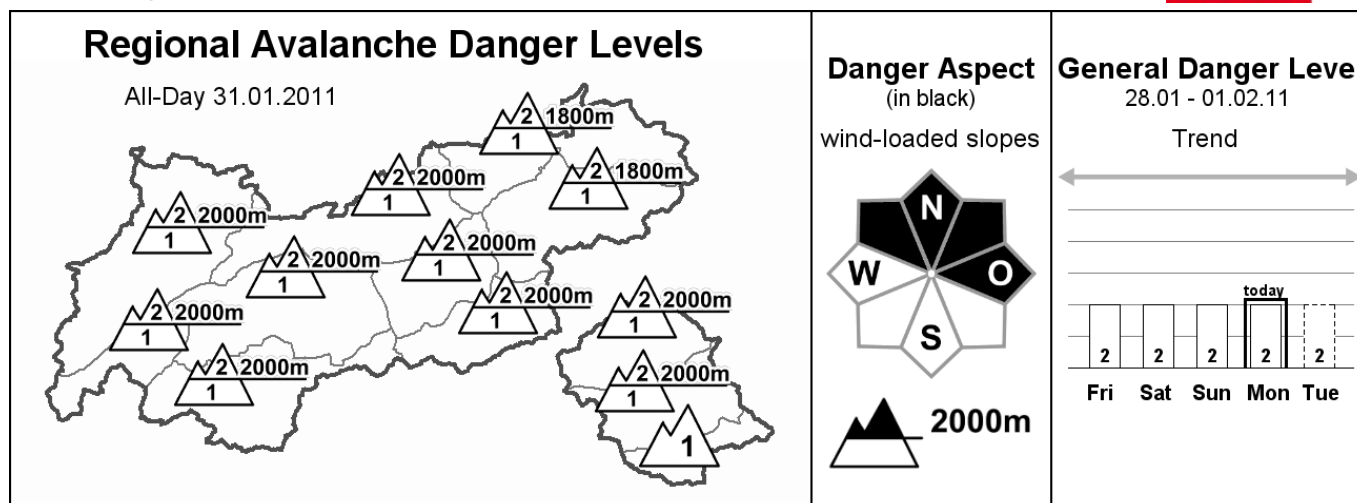


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 31.01.2011, at 07:30



Beware snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is contingent on altitude widespread: below about 2000 m it is low, above that altitude it is moderate. The major hazard stems from the very recently formed snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations occur most frequently on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in northwestern to northern to eastern expositions. Particularly in the inneralpine backcountry touring regions, these relatively small sized snowdrift masses can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In areas with shallow snow, the more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack can be triggered by large additional loading. This is particularly the case in transition areas from deep to shallow snow. The frequency and spread of the avalanche prone locations tends to increase with ascending altitude.

SNOW LAYERING

At low and intermediate altitudes, the old snowpack has settled and consolidated well, the uppermost surface is generally hard packed and capable of bearing loads. In high alpine regions, the old snowpack has been often heavily influenced by winds: hard compacted surfaces alternate with breakable crusts, followed by loosely packed snow in wind protected areas. Especially on shady slopes during the clear, cold nights, surface hoar has formed. In the foehn channels more than anywhere else, a good amount of snow has been transported over the last few days, giving rise to snowdrift accumulations which in general are inadequately bonded with the old snowpack surface, making them prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: from the Atlantic, a powerful high extends well towards central Europe. The air masses above Tyrol are very dry and relatively mild. Mountain weather today: outstanding mountain weather conditions. As of 1000 m, unimpeded sunshine, dry air, good visibility above the haze and fogbanks. Furthermore, it will be relatively mild, above freezing level at intermediate altitudes. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Light to moderate southeasterly to easterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe