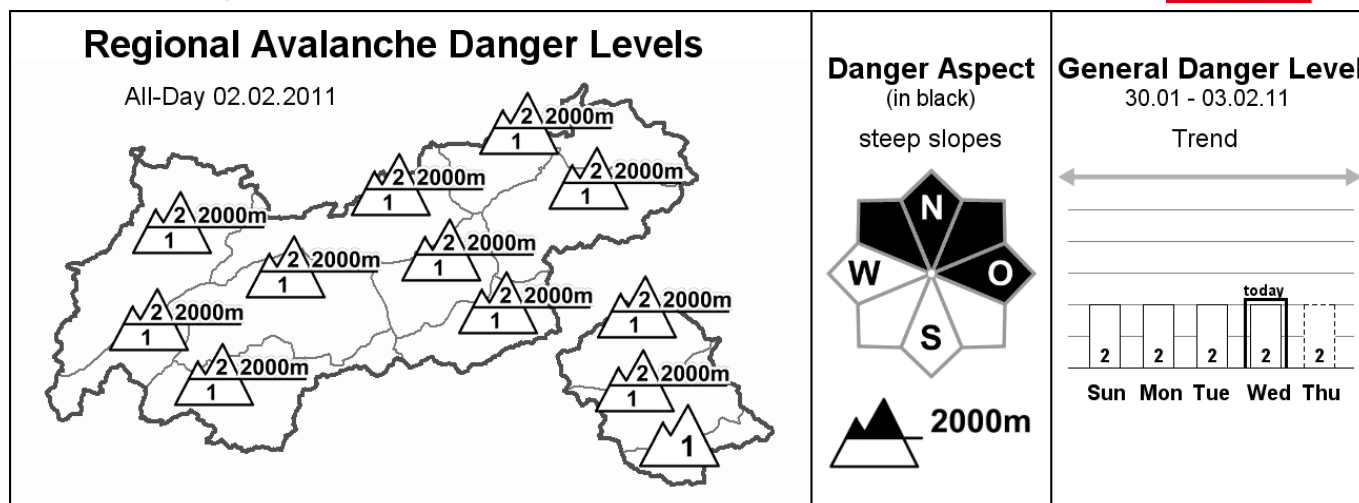


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 02.02.2011, at 07:30



Generally favourable backcountry touring conditions

AVALANCHE DANGER

Tyrol's touring conditions in outlying terrain continue to be favourable, the avalanche danger level is generally contingent on altitude: below about 2000 m it is low, above that altitude it is moderate. The major hazard stems from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations, which are usually small sized. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on northwest to north to east facing steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines. Avalanches are usually triggerable only through large additional loading, i.e. an entire group of backcountry skiers or freeriders. As of midday, the danger of naturally triggered avalanches on the intensely sun-bathed slopes will be heightened.

SNOW LAYERING

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, conditions are becoming increasingly springlike: on sunny slopes, the snowpack surface is becoming covered with firn snow up to high altitudes over the course of the day. The clear, cold nights are forming a crust capable of bearing loads well into the following morning. The snowpack in high alpine regions is more varied and irregular: sometimes hard compacted by winds, sometimes breakable crusts. In wind protected areas, there is still dry, loosely packed powder snow. Most of all in areas adjacent to ridge lines and gullies and bowls, small, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations are still evident. Weak layers inside the old snowpack also exist, particularly in the inneralpine touring regions.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high pressure zone prevails, the air currents are increasingly coming from the northwest. On Thursday night, a weak cold front will traverse the northwestern regions of Tyrol. On the weekend, the high will regain dominance, supplying the land with milder, dry air. In the mountains, brisk northwesterly winds. Mountain weather today: brilliant sunshine. In the Northern Alps this afternoon, a few clouds will move in. The northerly wind will gain in strength in all regions. Temperatures will drop somewhat. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate to strong northerly winds; on the Main Alpine Ridge, winds will also be blowing at strong velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe