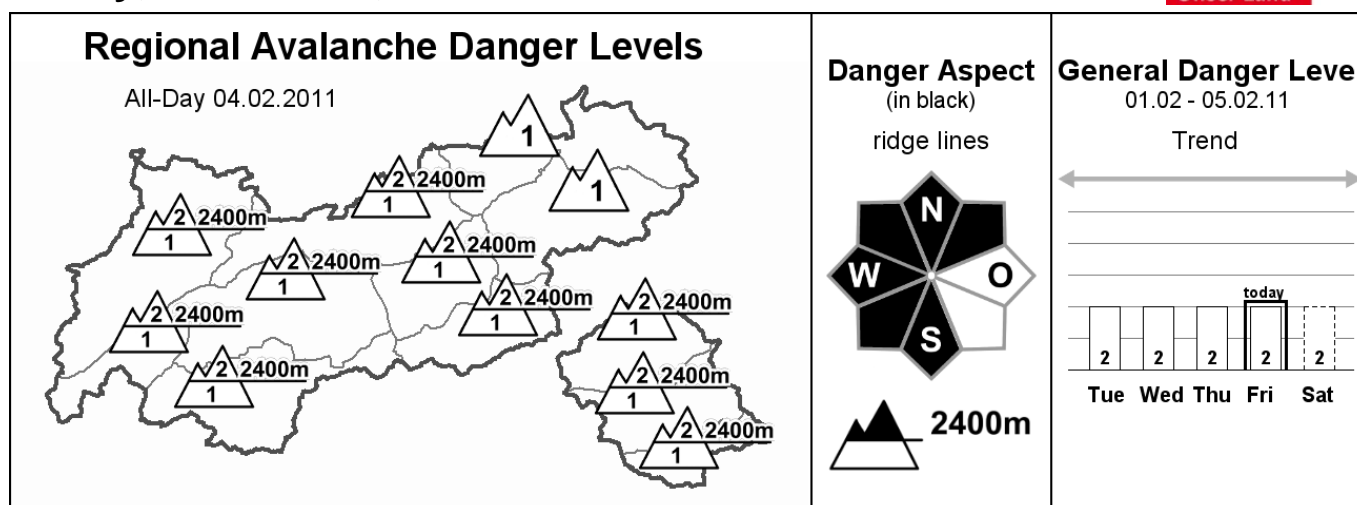


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 04.02.2011, at 07:30



Above 2400 m, moderate avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, favourable conditions prevail widespread. The avalanche danger level is contingent on altitude: below about 2400 m, it is usually low; above that altitude it is moderate. The major hazard stems from freshly formed, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations. The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on high alpine, south to north to northeast facing slopes near ridge lines. Since these danger zones are usually easy to recognize, they can be circumvented through a careful route selection. Below about 2500 m, especially on intensely sun-bathed slopes, naturally triggered moist sluffs can be expected with increasing frequency.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths throughout Tyrol are currently below long-term averages. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack is generally well settled and consolidated. On steep, sunny slopes, the uppermost surface is usually covered by a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads, which transforms to firm snow during the day. In high alpine regions, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines, new, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations have formed, which often blanket over a very irregular, highly varied old snowpack: surfaces are hard compacted by winds in some places, yet in others they are loosely packed and powdery. Breakable crusts are also prevalent. Fresh snowdrift masses are often inadequately bonded with the old snowpack surface, making them prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a briskly moving westerly air current under the influence of a high pressure zone prevails over Europe. It is supplying increasingly dry, mild air masses to the Alps. Mountain weather today: initially overcast, but by this afternoon sunny and mild mountain weather conditions will gain dominance, with outstanding visibility. The cirrostratus clouds sweeping past will provide no disturbance. The freezing level will rise to 2000 m altitude. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Moderate westerly winds, increasing to strong velocity by this evening on the northern flank of the Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger rising somewhat due to moist sluffs.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe