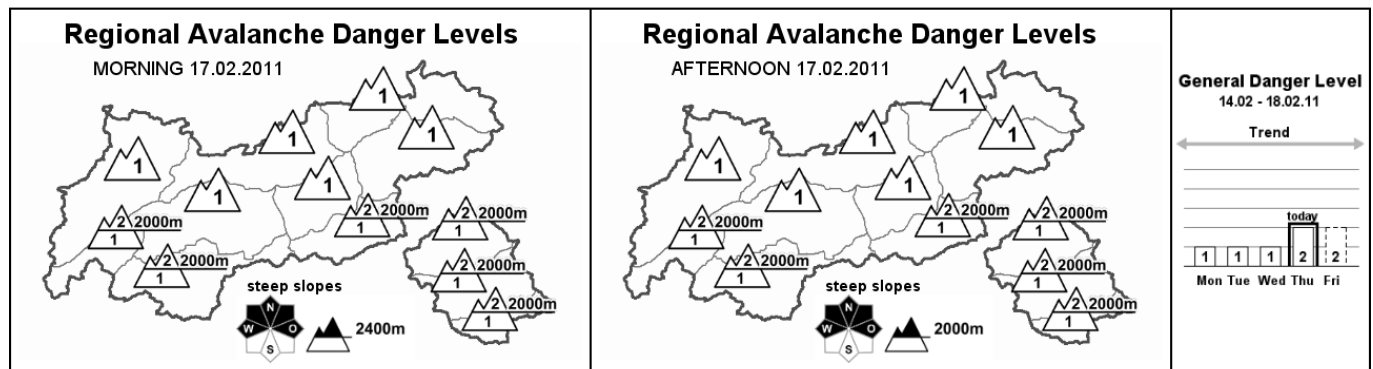


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 17.02.2011, at 07:30



Moderate avalanche danger along Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tyrol

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is generally low in northern regions, along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tyrol it is moderate. The major peril stems from freshly formed, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to east facing steep slopes and in drifted gullies and bowls above approximately 2000 m. Evaluating such spots is made especially difficult by the fact the the snowdrift masses are often blanketed over with new fallen snow, making them hard to recognize.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, there has been 5 to 10 cm of snowfall along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tyrol; in southern East Tyrol as much as 15 cm. The snow depths throughout Tyrol are far below average. The snowpack is low in tensions, in general. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack surface is usually covered with melt freeze crusts, in high alpine regions it is highly irregular and varied: hard, wind compacted surfaces alternate with breakable crusts; and in some places there is faceted, loosely packed snow. Wherever this snow is then covered over with fresh snowdrift, the proneness of the snowpack to trigger increases somewhat.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the Alps lie at the forefront of a low pressure zone, extending over the Biscay peninsula, in a moist and mild southwesterly air current. Mountain weather today: clouds and possible snowfall, particularly in the mountains from the Main Alpine Ridge towards the south. However, no significant amount of fresh fallen snow is anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Moderate to light velocity southwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe