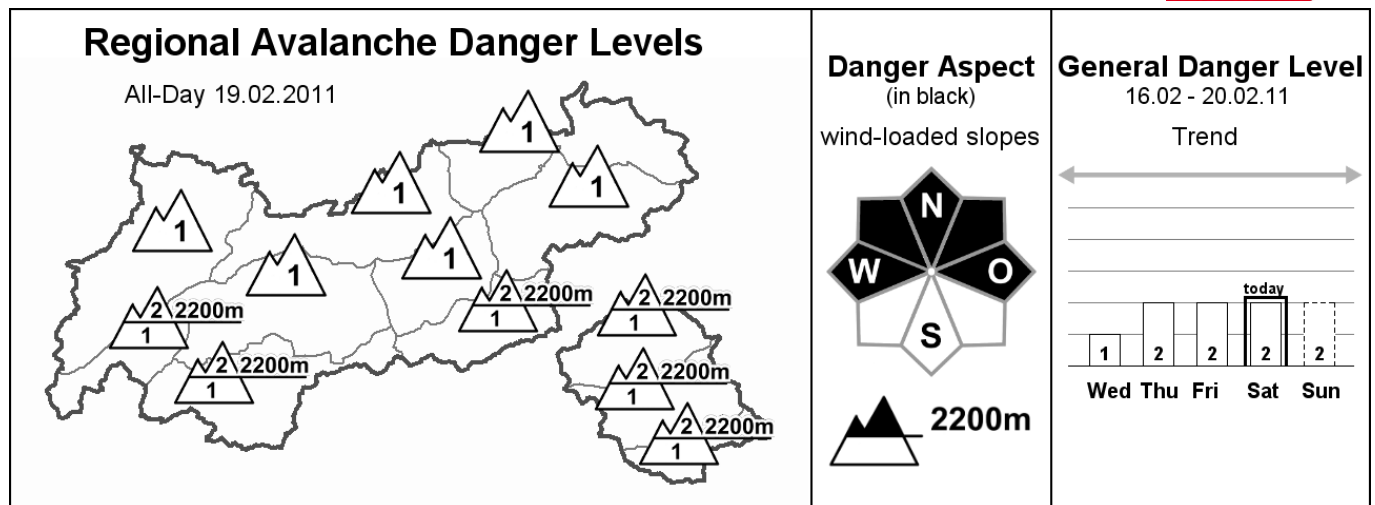


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 19.02.2011, at 07:30



Avalanche danger widespread is low; from region to region, moderate

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is low widespread; along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tyrol, it is moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in drifted gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m, particularly in west to north to east facing exposition. Freshly formed and older snowdrift masses can be relatively easily triggered especially in those places where they have been deposited atop a loosely packed old snowpack. However, the released snow masses generally remain small. On steep, intensely sun-drenched slopes, isolated naturally triggered sluffs are likely.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths are way below average throughout Tyrol. Particularly on south facing slopes, the melting process continues apace. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack has settled and consolidated well, in general. The snowpack surface is usually covered with melt freeze crusts, which then transform to firn snow over the course of the day. In high alpine regions, the old snowpack surface is highly irregular and varied: hard, wind compacted surfaces alternate with breakable crusts, interspersed with faceted, loosely packed snow. The old snowpack surface is now blanketed over with freshly formed, usually small sized snowdrift accumulations from the most recent period of precipitation.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: an intermediate high is bringing dry air masses from the northwest to Tyrol today; only the Lower Inn Valley is still beset with a disturbance. Tomorrow, Sunday, a weak cold front will approach from the west, reaching Tyrol on Sunday night. Mountain weather today: from the Rofan to the Kitzbühel Alps and in the Wilder Kaiser the visibility is worst, a bit of snowfall is possible this morning. Further to the west and on the southern flank of the Alps, sunshine dominates; apart from exposed terrain the winds will remain light. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Light northwesterly winds at high altitudes, reaching moderate velocity on and near ridge lines.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe