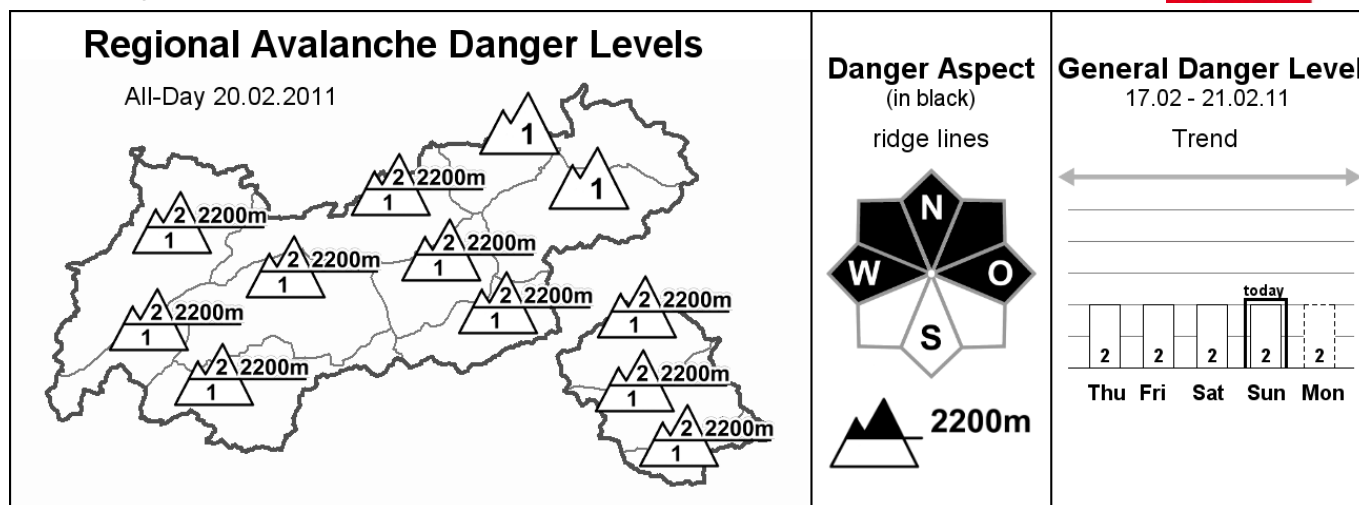


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 20.02.2011, at 07:30



Slightly heightened avalanche danger, due to snowfall

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level will rise slightly today due to the forecast snowfall, particularly in western regions, reaching the level "moderate" above approximately 2200 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift masses. Especially where they have been despoted on top of loosely packed old snow, they can be triggered with relative ease. The released snow masses, however, remain rather small. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in areas adjacent to ridge lines, on wind loaded slopes and in drifted gullies and bowls of western to northern to eastern exposition. Some of these snowdrift accumulations will get blanketed over with fresh fallen snow today, making them difficult to recognize in open terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths are currently far below average throughout Tyrol. The snowpack, all in all, is low in tensions. At low and intermediate altitudes, the surface is usually covered with a melt freeze crust. In high alpine regions, the old snowpack is irregular and highly varied: hard, wind compacted surfaces alternate with breakable crusts. In wind protected zones, the old snowpack surface often consists of faceted, loosely packed crystals. Wherever fresh snowdrift comes to rest atop this loosely packed snow, the snowpack is prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: an Atlantic disturbance will traverse Tyrol by tomorrow, unleashing a low pressure front over Italy. Subsequently, colder air masses will flow towards Tyrol from the northwest, the snowfall level will drop down to the valleys. Until the middle of next week, this northwesterly current will persist, although Tuesday and Wednesday are expected to be dry. Mountain weather today: from the west, the summits will be shrouded more and more in cloud, and it will begin to snow. The peaks of the Lower Inn Valley and the Dolomites are expected to remain fog-free until this afternoon, although visibility will be diffuse. During the night tonight, snowfall everywhere. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Light southwesterly winds at high altitudes, shifting to northwesterly this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Depending on the amount of snowfall, the avalanche danger will increase somewhat.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe