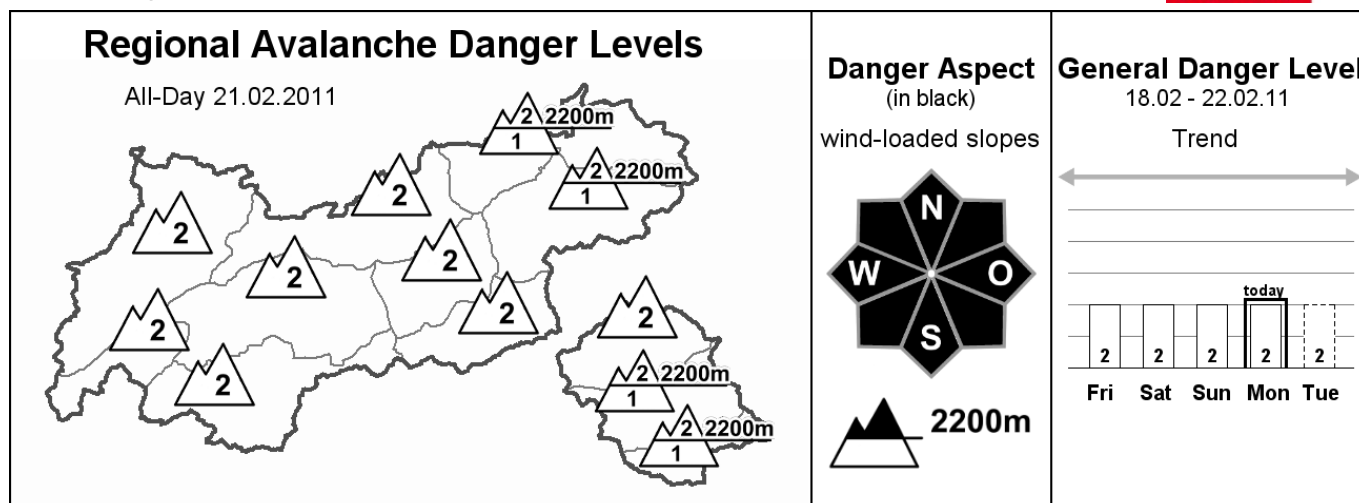


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 21.02.2011, at 07:30



Slightly raised avalanche danger due to snowfall - Beware fresh snowdrift!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is somewhat heightened due to snowfall and is now moderate widespread. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can, for the most part, be easily triggered; even minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier, is often sufficient to unleash them. Evaluating the hazards is made more difficult by the fact that the snowdrift is now often blanketed over by new fallen snow, making the snowdrift hard to spot.

SNOW LAYERING

It began to snow in Tyrol yesterday from the west. In the Arlberg/Ausserfern region there has already been 15 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow; along the Main Alpine Ridge and on the East Tyrolean Tauern Ridge 10 to 15 cm, elsewhere in North Tyrol less. The south of East Tyrol remained largely free of precipitation. Although the high altitude southwesterly wind, which later shifted to northwesterly, was blowing at only light to moderate strength, new snowdrift accumulations formed particularly in high alpine regions. Attention: again today, strong northwesterly winds will transport the snow. At low and intermediate altitudes, new fallen snow and snowdrift cover over the old snowpack, which in general has settled well. The situation in high alpine regions is less favourable: snowdrift masses often lie atop a loosely packed, unbonded old snowpack surface making them prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: at ground level Tyrol is in the grip of a low over Italy; at high altitude, it is under the influence of a low over Poland. Thus, moist, cold air masses are being delivered here. The Italy low is gradually weakening, the northwesterly air current is gaining in dominance. Mountain weather today: the peaks are shrouded in cloud and fog, it is snowing, making for poor visibility. Snowfall of 5 to 10 cm is anticipated. In some regions, the wind will increase in velocity. In the Southern Alps, between the Ortler and Dolomites, next to no snowfall, but poor visibility. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Moderate westerly to northwesterly high altitudes; in some areas near ridge lines winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe