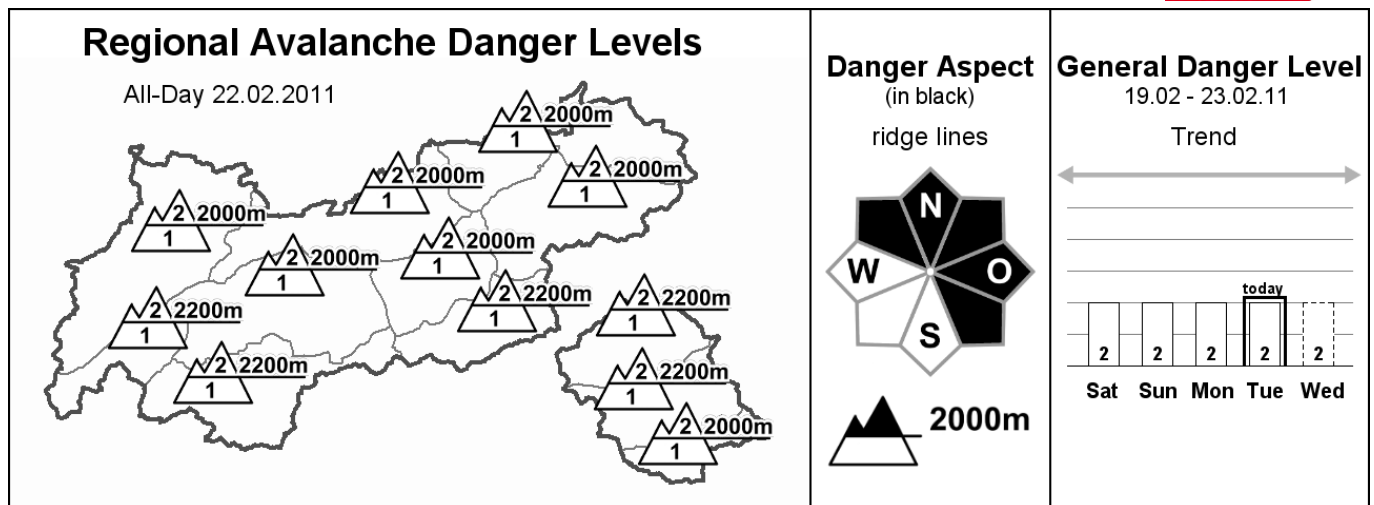


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 22.02.2011, at 07:30



Caution: fresh snowdrift accumulations in very steep ridgeline areas and loosely packed avalanches

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent upon altitude. Above the treeline, the danger is moderate, below that level it is low. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. Since there was little wind during the snowfall, they are generally limited to very steep, northwest to north to southeast facing ridgeline areas. In addition, in the East Tyrolean Dolomites and the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, older snowdrift masses, formed a week ago on very steep ridgeline slopes of northern exposition, also require caution. Freshly drifted zones can usually be recognized with ease. Loosely packed avalanches are likely today on craggy, sunny slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

There has been additional snowfall in Tyrol, most of which fell in western regions (up to 15 cm). In general, there was only 5 to 10 cm of new fallen snow, whereas southern East Tyrol remained dry. Light northwesterly winds prevailed. Fresh snowdrift on north facing slopes is poorly bonded with the old snowpack surface, but there are no pronounced weak layers inside the snowpack.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Tyrol is caught between a low pressure system above Italy and a powerful high over Russia, in a cold and moist easterly air current, whereas at high altitudes the current is northwesterly. The air masses will be temporarily drier on Wednesday, followed by a warm front. Mountain weather today: poor visibility, the peaks are shrouded in cloud and fog. Snowfall will taper off during the afternoon. Until then, 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated, and low, wintery temperatures. In the Southern Alps, only light snow flurries and somewhat better visibility. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 16 degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds at high altitudes, later shifting to northwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Frequent loosely packed avalanches from craggy terrain expected tomorrow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe