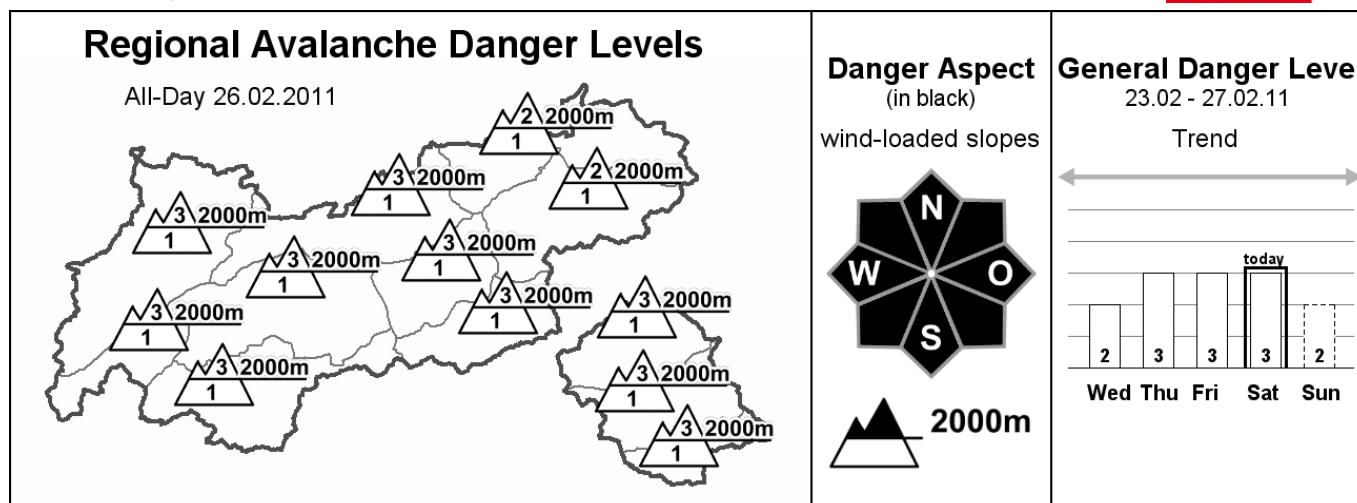


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 26.02.2011, at 07:30



Avoid consequently all fresh snowdrift accumulations in steep terrain!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude and is now determined by the degree of wind influence over the last few days. Above approximately 2000 m, considerable danger prevails, except for the eastern part of the Northern Alps and the Kitzbühel Alps. Below that altitude, the danger level is low. The hazards for backcountry skiers and freeriders stem mainly from the recently formed snowdrift accumulations. The frequency of danger zones increases with ascending altitude; so does the likelihood that such drifted pockets can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in all expositions, due to the storm strength winds which prevail, but most frequently in east to south to west facing steep, ridgeline areas and in gullies and bowls. Caution is also urged in shady, wind exposed, steep terrain in all regions of Tyrol towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations; and in the East Tyrolean Dolomites and the southern Stubai and Ötztal Alps, in addition, towards older snowdrift which is now blanketed over with new fallen snow. The likelihood of triggering increases with intensifying solar radiation. Thus, today is a day when very steep, drifted terrain is to be avoided under all circumstances. With some experience in assessing avalanche perils, these hazardous zones can be recognized quite easily.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday there was additional snowfall, most of which fell in the southern Stubai Alps (about 20 cm). Graupel has now been deposited widespread. The stormy winds were quite pronounced and led to vast snow transport. The bonding of snowdrift with the loose snow beneath it becomes weaker with ascending altitude. Further potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches can be found in loose, faceted old snow above approximately 2100 m on north facing slopes; and in small surface areas where graupel corn has been deposited. In wind protected zones, there is often marvellous powder snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: an intermediate high will make itself felt today. On Sunday, a low from the North Sea bringing rain and snow will reach western Austria, then move on towards the Mediterranean on Monday. As of Tuesday, Tyrol will be wedged between a high over northern Europe and a low over the western Mediterranean. Mountain weather today: sunny conditions in all of Tyrol's mountain ranges, freezing level at about 1800 m and rising. Through the day the skies will be cloudless, amid perfect visibility. By evening in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, clouds will move in from the west, the skies will turn overcast. During the night tonight, snowfall will set in from the west. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Generally light winds. Towards evening, winds will shift to westerly/northwesterly and become brisker.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will incrementally subside.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe