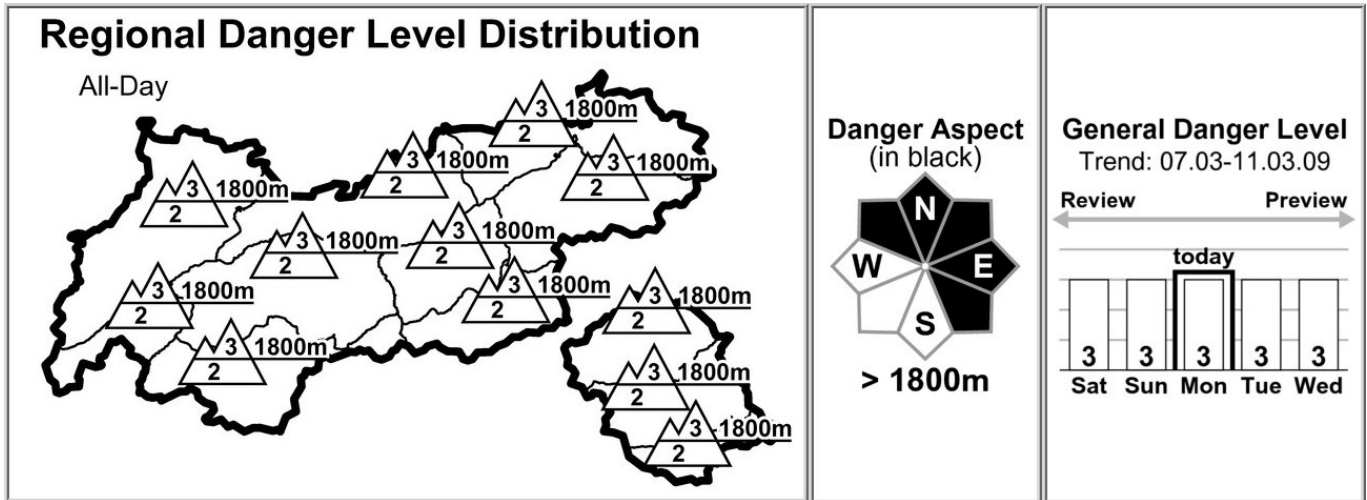


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 09.03.2009, at 07:30



WIDESPREAD ABOVE 1800 M, AVALANCHE DANGER IS CONSIDERABLE

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger depends on altitude: above approximately 1800 m, the danger is considerable; below that altitude, it is moderate. Avalanche prone locations take the form of snowdrift accumulations from recent days. With increasing altitude, they become more frequent and are especially prevalent adjacent to ridge lines and behind breaks in the terrain. With experience, subject to visibility, such danger spots can be recognized. In addition, particularly on northwest to north to northeast facing steep slopes above 1800 m, beware a loosely packed layer in transition areas from little to lots of snow and wind protected areas with shallow snow, which can easily be unleashed, even by minimal additional loading. At lower and intermediate altitudes, in addition, isolated full depth snowslides can be triggered on very steep grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it has snowed about 5 cm in North Tyrol, amid strong winds which above the treeline transported the snow widespread. At lower altitudes, such snowdrift masses are generally quite well bonded with the moist old snowpack, but the bonding worsens with increasing altitude, thus raising the likelihood of triggering. The snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is generally well consolidated, but already moist in places. On steep, east to south to west facing slopes, a several-centimeter thick melt freeze crust is evident near the surface, which formed last week. A loose, poorly bonded layer from mid-January, especially on northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above 1800 m, is still a hazard.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a turbulent northwesterly airstream will bring further snow showers and other disturbances to Tyrol at least until Wednesday. Thereafter, the moist air masses will taper off, although conditions will probably remain variable and windy. Mountain weather today: stormy and wet in Tyrol's mountains today. During the morning, a cold front with heavy snow showers will pass through, in the afternoon additional snow showers can be expected far and wide. The summits will be veiled in fog, although conditions are variable and can change quickly. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Along the Northern Alps it will be stormy, elsewhere the northwesterly winds will be strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No improvement in the avalanche situation. At higher altitudes, new snowdrift accumulations are expected.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe