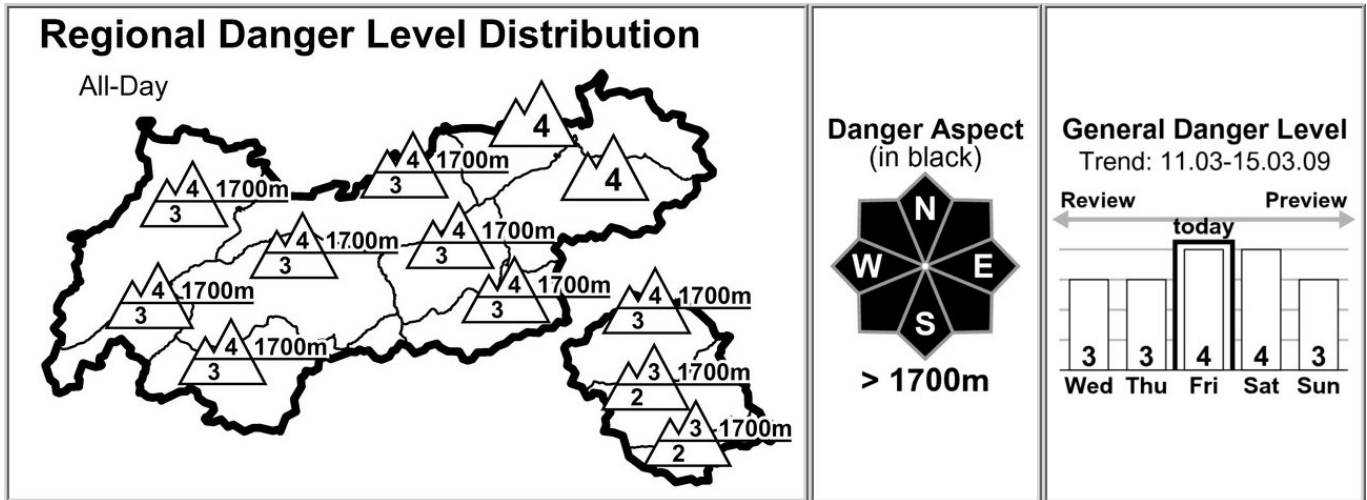


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 13.03.2009, at 07:30



NORTH TYROL ABOVE 1700 M: HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER - LOWER INN VALLEY GENERALLY HIGH DANGER

AVALANCHE DANGER

In North Tyrol and in the East Tyrol Tauern above approximately 1700 m, avalanche danger is high widespread, below that altitude generally considerable. In regions of the Lower Inn Valley the danger is also high, due to the significant warming and new snow, amid wind. Natural avalanches which attain large size can still be expected, especially on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing steep slopes above approximately 1700 m. In addition, the daytime warming cycle can naturally trigger the recently formed snowdrift accumulations, which however will not exceed medium size. Depending on the snowfall level, wet sluffs can also be expected in low lying areas. All in all, thoroughly unfavourable conditions prevail for backcountry skiers and freeriders in particular. The situation in East Tyrol is better, but caution us urged towards the snowdrift accumulations there.

SNOW LAYERING

The ongoing snowfall shows no sign of coming to an end. Another 20 cm has fallen in North Tyrol, in northern East Tyrol 10 cm, amid strong winds. The combination of snowfall, wind and daytime warming which increases as the day progresses has extremely unfavourable influence on snowpack stability. The highly instable snowpack is being weakened even further on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 1700 m. A loose, faceted layer full of air spaces from mid-January is the weak layer which provides a potential bed surface. Due to rain, the snowpack below about 1700 m, thus far relatively stable, is also now being weakened. The bonding of snowdrift accumulations with the old snowpack deteriorates with increasing altitude, thus raising its likelihood of triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a high pressure zone is slowly approaching from the west, but Tyrol is still dominated by moist air masses from the northwest which will become much drier and warmer on Saturday. On Sunday, a small low is expected, bringing temporarily lower temperatures. Mountain weather today: inside the hut it is definitely cosier than outside. From the Lechtal over the Karwendel to the Wilder Kaiser, further snowfall is expected, atop everything which has already fallen; elsewhere there will only be small amounts of new snow. Dense fog in the mountains, poor visibility and strong winds in places. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be windy, but sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines, still strong to stormy northwesterly winds, gradually slackening off towards afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing higher temperatures will cause frequent natural avalanches tomorrow, amid high avalanche danger in general.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe