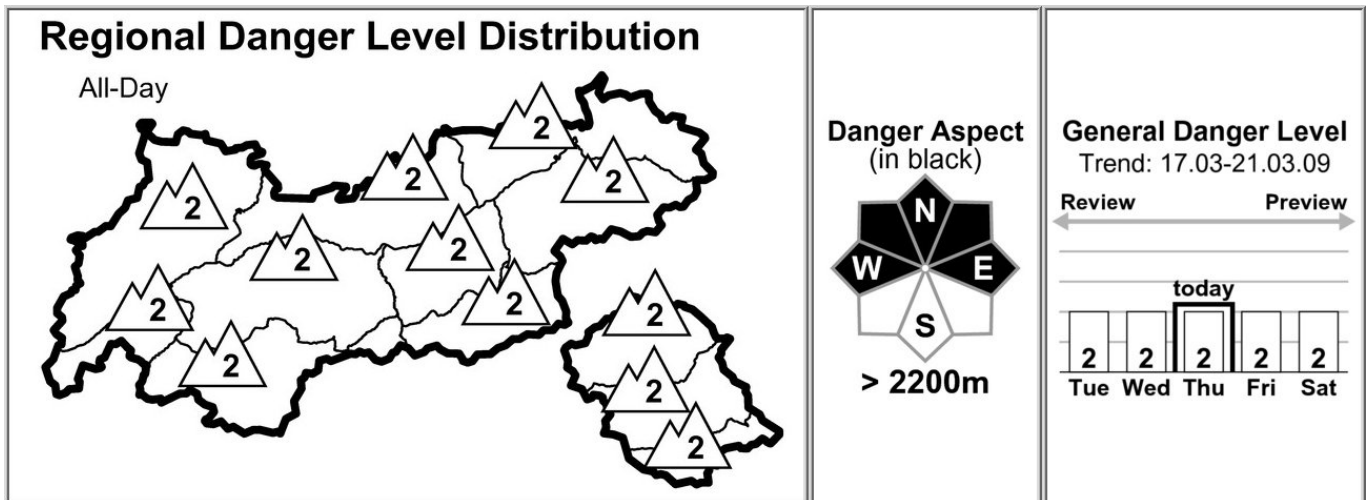


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 19.03.2009, at 07:30



AVALANCHE DANGER IS MODERATE WIDESPREAD

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, quite favourable conditions prevail, amid moderate avalanche danger far and wide. Avalanche prone locations for dry, slab avalanches are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can most easily be triggered in transition areas from little to lots of snow, e.g. traversing a windblown area with shallow snow into snowdrifted gullies and bowls. The hazards of wet snow avalanches will subside as temperatures drop and clouds move in, but full depth snowslides are still possible below about 2400 m.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night was generally still clear, clouds began to move in only towards the dawn. Thus, the snowpack could consolidate at the surface and build up a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads on steep, sun-bathed slopes in particular. On shady slopes, the surface is often still powdery in wind protected areas. In high alpine regions on shady slopes, the loose, unbonded layers of faceted snow crystals embedded there are still quite prone to triggering and provide a bed surface for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: Tyrol still lies wedged between a high over Western Europe and a low over Eastern Europe. The northerly airstream is weakening temporarily. The southern flank of the Alps will be supplied with dry air masses from the north. Mountain weather today: diffuse light, but towards the west the mountains are still free of clouds. Towards the east it will rapidly become more overcast and snow flurries are expected. In the afternoon, conditions will deteriorate in the west as well. On the southern flank of the Alps quite sunny, but also extremely windy regionally. Temperatures will drop somewhat. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 to minus 16 degrees. Brisk and intensely gusty northerly to northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Danger of wet snow avalanches will diminish as temperatures drop.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe