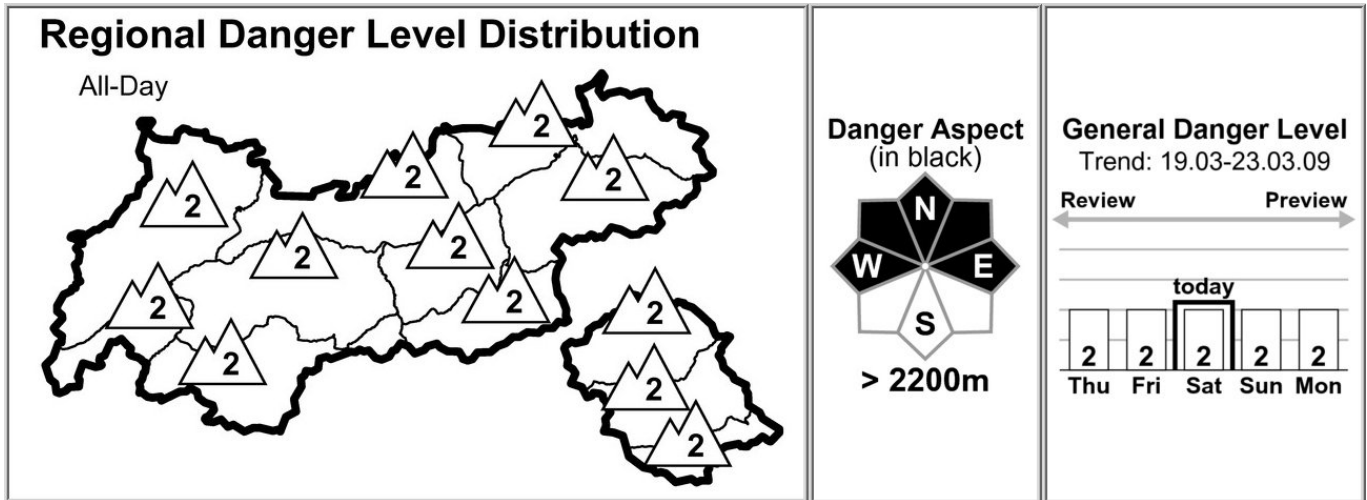


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 21.03.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS REIGN, AVALANCHE DANGER IS MODERATE, BUT BEWARE FRESH SNOWDRIFT!

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, favourable conditions prevail widespread, the avalanche danger is generally moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. Especially the freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations are highly prone to triggering and can be easily unleashed. Transitions from shallow snow areas to snowdrifted gullies and bowls demand great caution. On south to east facing slopes, isolated natural avalanches of loose snow and wet snow can be expected in case of strong solar radiation.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been only a bit of snowfall in North Tyrol and along the East Tyrol Tauern Ridge. A moderate northeasterly to easterly wind was blowing, in areas adjacent to ridge lines the winds were stronger and gave rise to new, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations. New snow and snowdrift from the most recent period of precipitation blanket an old snowpack which is rather well settled and consolidated. The bonding of the fresh snowdrift to the old snowpack, however, is often quite poor. Additional caution is urged towards the loosely packed, faceted snow crystal layers still embedded in the old snowpack on shady slopes in particular: these unbonded layers are trigger sensitive and can become bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a high in northwestern regions and a low over the southern Adriatic are bringing a northeasterly air current to Tyrol which is gradually becoming drier. Highly variable and windy conditions are expected in the coming week through the northwesterly airstream. Mountain weather today: limited visibility in the morning due to cloudbanks at 2000 m, particularly between Karwendel and Kitzbühel Alps, possibly extending into the afternoon. Sunshine will soon appear in the western glacier regions in particular, as well as on the southern flank of the Alps. Windy in places and quite cold. Temperatures at 2000 m: minus 11 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 to minus 15 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds, at high altitudes the winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable touring conditions amid moderate avalanche danger widespread.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe