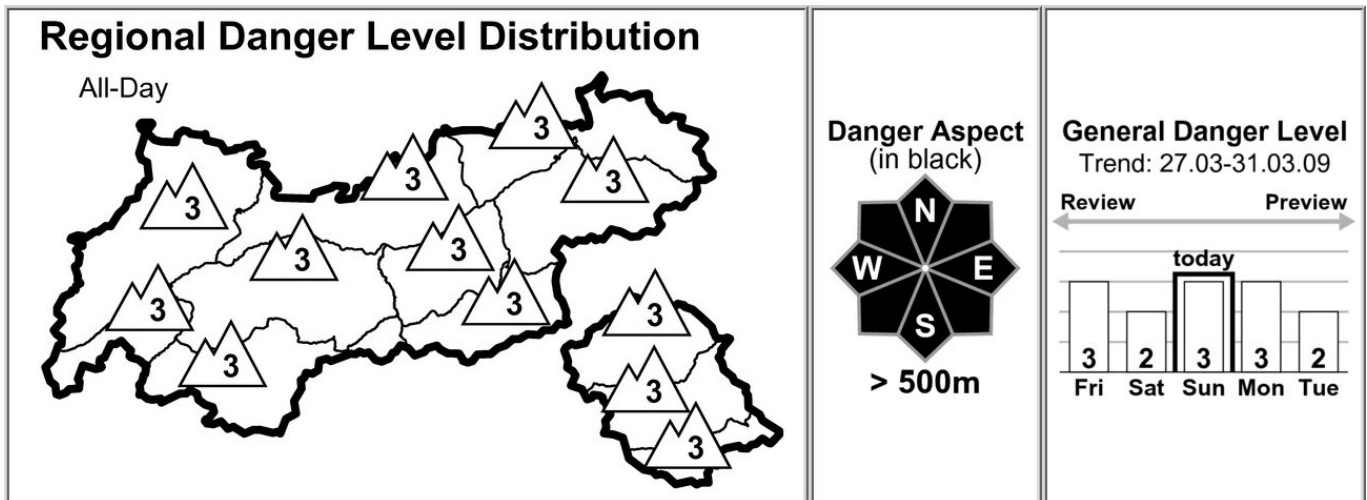


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 29.03.2009, at 07:30



UNFAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS - DETERIORATING FIRMNESS IN LOW LYING AREAS DUE TO RAIN

AVALANCHE DANGER

Generally unfavourable conditions prevail in Tyrol, amid considerable avalanche danger. On the one hand, the rainfall which is expected to intensify in East Tyrol and the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps over the course of the day will seriously impair the firmness of the snowpack. Thus, increasingly frequent wet snow avalanches below about 1500 m in all expositions can be expected. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be placed at risk. Above about 2000 m on steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, caution is urged, where in the inneralpine regions of the Stubai, Tux, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps and also in northern East Tyrol, particularly in shallow snow areas, large sized avalanches can be triggered. This is particularly the case, as was demonstrated by yesterday's avalanches, in wind protected bowls up to about 2600 m. Due to intensive snowfall along the Main Alpine Ridge and in northern East Tyrol, natural avalanches will be possible as of late afternoon today. In addition, above approximately 2200 m, beware freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and below sharp breaks in the terrain can be triggered by minimum additional loading, in shady areas to begin with, also in other expositions above approximately 2500 m.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack was moistened yesterday in wind protected, low and intermediate altitude areas. Today, the rain will further deteriorate the firmness in low lying areas. Where the wind is blowing, a generally thin melt-freeze crust formed at intermediate and high altitudes yesterday. A loose, faceted layer which formed in mid-January is decisive: above approximately 2000 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, this layer has been responsible for most of the recently unleashed avalanches. Strong to stormy winds have also given rise to snowdrift accumulations far and wide, whose proneness to triggering escalates with increasing altitude.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: conditions have turned winterlike again. Winds have slackened off measurably, temperatures have dropped and 15 to 20 cm of new snow is expected today in the Northern Alps; on the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tyrol 30 to 40 cm is anticipated. Fog and clouds will dominate all day long. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 9 degrees. Moderate southerly winds during the morning hours, in the afternoon they will shift to easterly and increase to moderate.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Generally unfavourable conditions tomorrow. Thereafter, classic springtime conditions will begin, with dangers strongly subject to daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe