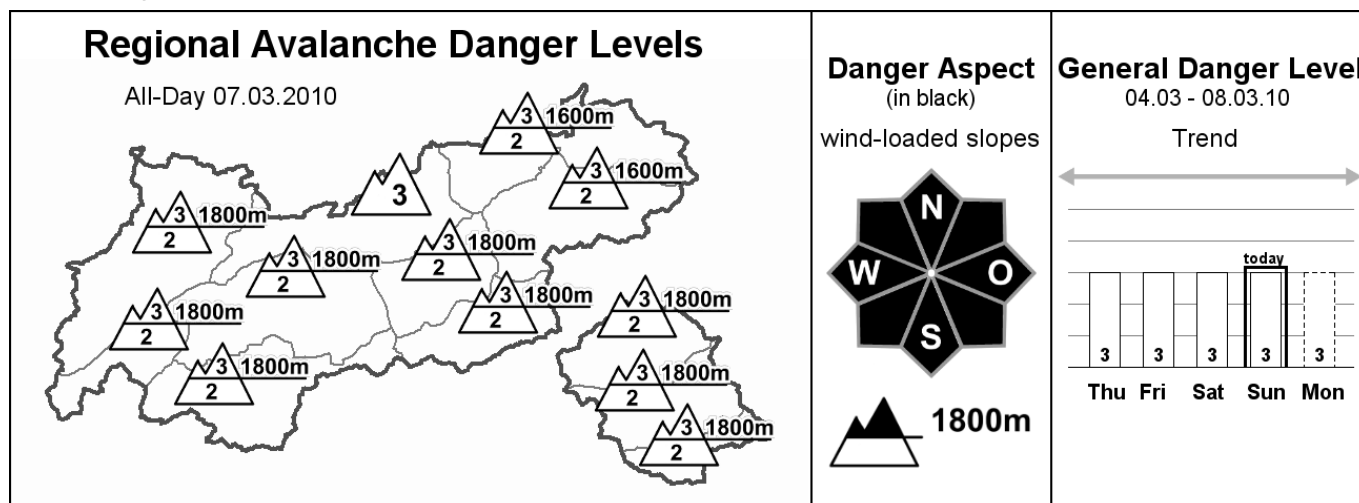


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 07.03.2010, at 07:30



### Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered with extreme ease

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions with lots of new fallen snow, namely, the western part of the Northern Alps, considerable avalanche danger generally prevails. In the remaining regions of Tyrol, the danger still depends on the altitude: generally below 1800 m, the danger level is moderate, above that altitude it is considerable. In addition to the already existing danger zones which are found particularly above the treeline, newly formed, sometimes quite extensive snowdrift accumulations must now be added. They are brittle because of the cold and can, thus, be triggered by minimum additional loading. They are found especially in northeast to east to south facing areas adjacent to ridge lines. In extremely steep, sunny terrain the snowpack may weaken this afternoon, so that freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can trigger naturally. Due to the dry air and low temperatures, this will only occur in isolated cases. The assessment of avalanche hazards is made more difficult today because the wind significantly slackened off during the snowfall, thus concealing drifted areas from view. In addition, steep and unfrequented terrain, especially west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes near the treeline and above require great caution. In those areas, as well as in steep terrain above 2400 m in all expositions, the snowdrift masses are extremely easy to disturb and dislodge. All in all, a situation still prevails in which great restraint in steep terrain is essential. Heavily frequented routes are more favourable.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday it has snowed up to 35 cm in the northern regions of Tyrol, though in most places it was 10-20 cm. Strong winds at midday brought about huge snow transport. Fresh snowdrift masses have been deposited on what was initially a thin, loosely packed layer of new fallen snow, which in turn lay atop a hardened old snowpack surface. The proneness to triggering is high. In addition, the snow layering is thoroughly unfavourable in west-northwest to north to east-northeast expositions above and around the treeline. There, as in sunny terrain, layers of depth hoar are prevalent. On southern facing slopes up to 2400 m, a somewhat harder melt freeze crust has formed which has a stabilising effect.

#### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Above approximately 2000 m it will be sunny from the start today, and during the day only a few cloudbanks will disturb the summits. However, the clouds clinging to the mountain flanks between 1000 and 2000 m will disperse only slowly. In the Southern Alps, lots of sunshine, but bitter cold in all regions. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 15 to minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 21 degrees. Moderate, intermittently brisk easterly to northeasterly wind at high altitudes.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation. The northeasterly wind will bring about new snowdrift accumulations.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe