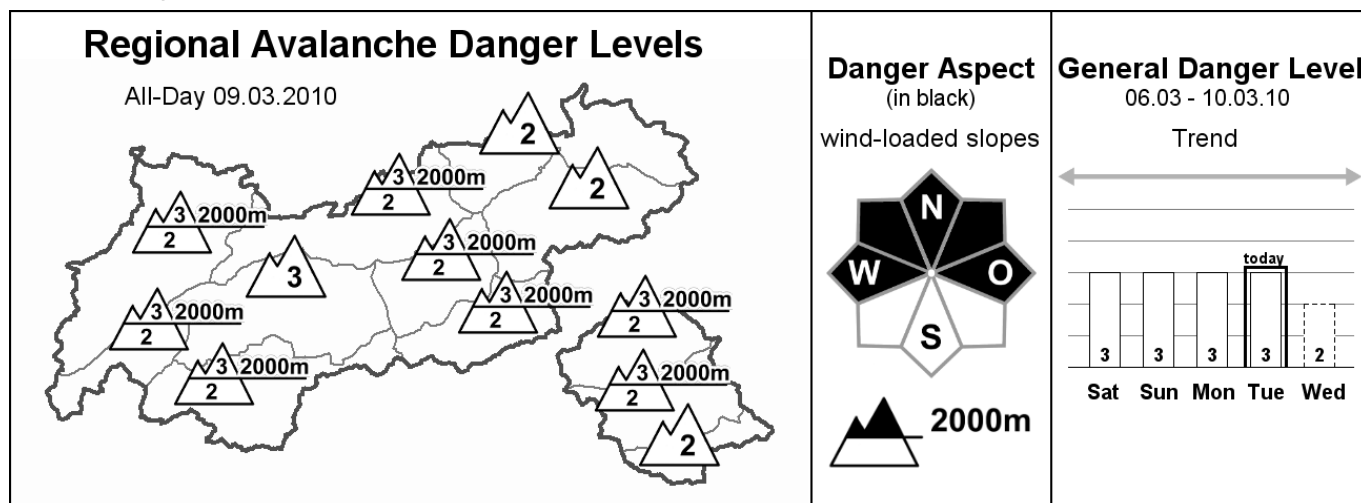


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 09.03.2010, at 07:30



Above 2000 m, considerable avalanche danger in some regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has receded somewhat, but in some regions is still considerable. The major hazard stems from snowdrift accumulations which formed last weekend. Although, due to the low temperatures, they are no longer as brittle as they were a few days ago. Avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on southwest to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes. Restraint in steep, unfrequented terrain is still urgently recommended. On steep, sunny slopes, caution is also urged: isolated naturally triggered loosely packed avalanches are possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is highly varied this winter, even across small surface areas. On the one hand, the distribution of snow depths is very diverse, due to intense wind influence. On the other, rather stable areas of the snowpack lie immediately adjacent to highly trigger-sensitive zones, which makes it difficult to plan backcountry touring routes. A hallmark remains the generally poor snow layering, typical of winters with little snowfall: the base consists predominantly of faceted, unbonded depth hoar interspersed with hardened crusts. Atop this fundament which is itself prone to triggering are snowdrift masses of varying depth. Even the bonding of the snowdrift with the old snowpack surface is highly varied from spot to spot. The persistently low temperatures are slowly diminishing the inner tensions of the snow in the uppermost layers.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tyrol still is on the southern rim of a high pressure system over the British Isles. A low pressure system over the Mediterranean is gaining influence and will bring warmer, moister air masses to Tyrol tomorrow. Mountain weather today: arctic temperatures at all altitudes, plus poor visibility due to the many-layered cloudbanks which are moving in from the southeast. Visibility is best between the Lechtal Alps and Arlberg. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 20 to minus 15 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 23 to minus 19 degrees. Light to moderate easterly to southeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will gradually subside.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe