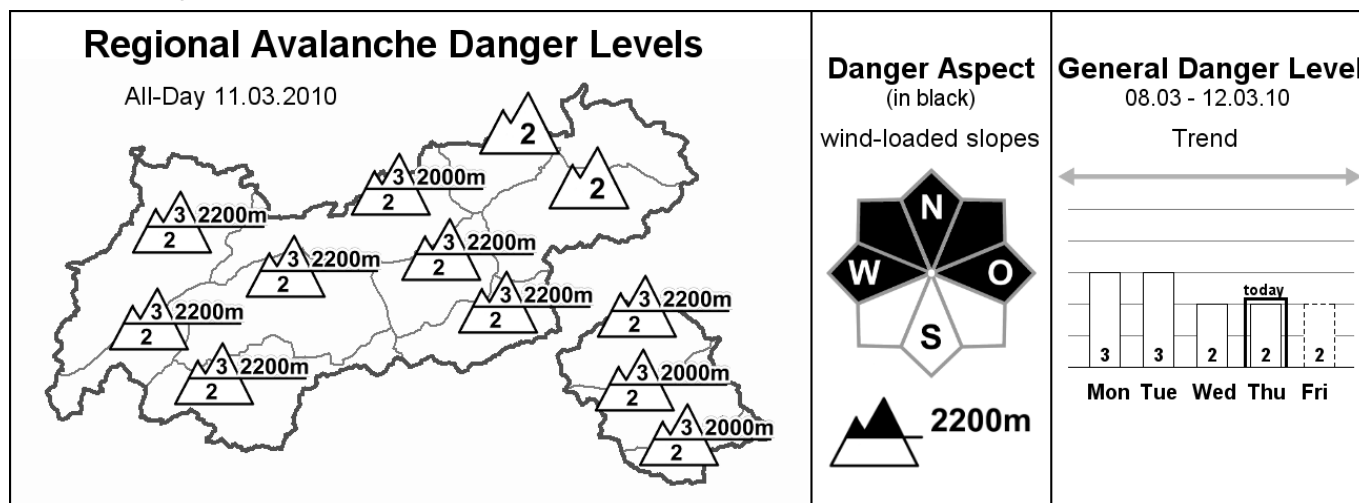


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 11.03.2010, at 07:30



Beware freshly formed snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is generally dependent on altitude: below about 2200 m the danger level is moderate, above that altitude it was considerable widespread. The major hazard stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing steep and wind loaded slopes above 2200 m. The danger zones are sometimes covered and concealed by new fallen snow, making them difficult to recognize. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche perils is essential. Due to the unfavourable snow layering this winter, restraint on steep and/or unfrequented slopes is called for.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10 to 15 cm of snowfall widespread in East Tyrol, in isolated cases as much as 25 cm. In North Tyrol there was barely 5 cm from place to place. The snowpack is highly irregular this winter, even across small surface areas: both snow depths and snow firmness vary enormously over short distances. The only hallmark of the entire snowpack is its weak, trigger sensitive fundament consisting largely of faceted, unbonded snow crystals. On top of this base, which acts like a ball bearing beneath the upper layers of snow, snowdrift masses of varying depths have been deposited. Particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger an avalanche.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the precipitation brought by a low pressure system over Italy is shifting to the northern flank of the Alps. On Friday, the low will move on, an intermediate high will make itself felt and improve weather conditions temporarily. Over the weekend, barrier clouds will be lodged against the northern flank of the Alps, South and East Tyrol will enjoy more favourable conditions. Mountain weather today: gloomy mountain weather with much impeded visibility, light snowfall during the morning in the regions west of Innsbruck in particular. This afternoon the snowfall will intensify somewhat from the northeast. On the southern flank of the Alps, dry weather or, at most, snow flurries with intermittent bright spells. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 to minus 11 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 to minus 13 degrees. Light southeasterly to northeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe