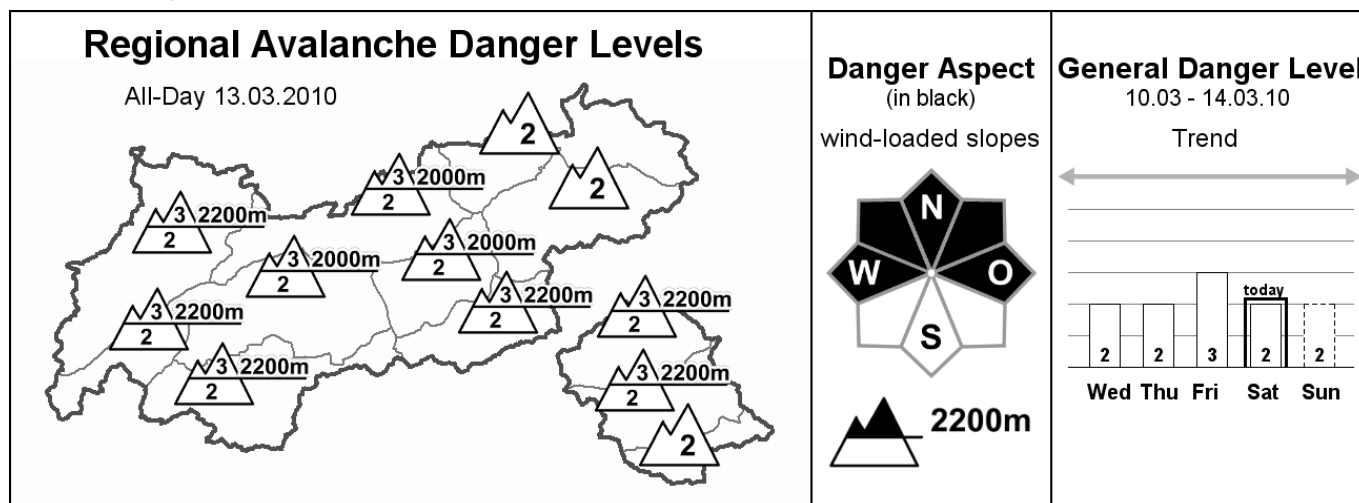


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 13.03.2010, at 07:30



**Avalanche danger depends on altitude: below 2200 m moderate, above 2200 m considerable widespread**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is by and large contingent on altitude: below about 2200 m it is generally moderate, above that altitude considerable widespread. The major hazard stems from snowdrift accumulations which have been deposited on an old snowpack which is highly prone to triggering. These snowdrift masses are themselves often covered and concealed by small amounts of loosely packed new fallen snow, making them very difficult to recognize in open terrain. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing wind loaded and steep slopes, where avalanches can still be triggered by minimum additional loading, even by the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle have helped to consolidate the uppermost layers of the snowpack on sun bathed slopes.

### SNOW LAYERING

The characteristics of the snowpack vary greatly this winter, even across small surface areas. This is true of the snow depth as well as the structure of the surface layers and their stability. The overriding hallmark, however, remains the widespread unfavourable fundament, consisting largely of faceted, unbonded snow crystals, which are then covered by snowdrift accumulations of varying depth. The bonding of these snowdrift masses to the snow layers lying beneath them is often poor, making avalanches relatively easy to trigger.

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

Weather: a northwesterly air current is bringing moist, cool air masses in deep layers to the northern flank of the Alps. At the beginning of next week, a powerful system of precipitation will arrive, as of mid-week milder Atlantic air will make itself felt. Mountain weather today: on the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, a generally sunny day is expected. The further north and east you go, the denser the clouds become, which are moving in from the north. Particularly between the Karwendel, Kitzbühel Alps and Wilder Kaiser, light snowfall is possible over the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 11 to minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds at high altitudes and in the eastern mountain ranges.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger remains dependent on altitude: below 2200 m moderate; above that, considerable.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe