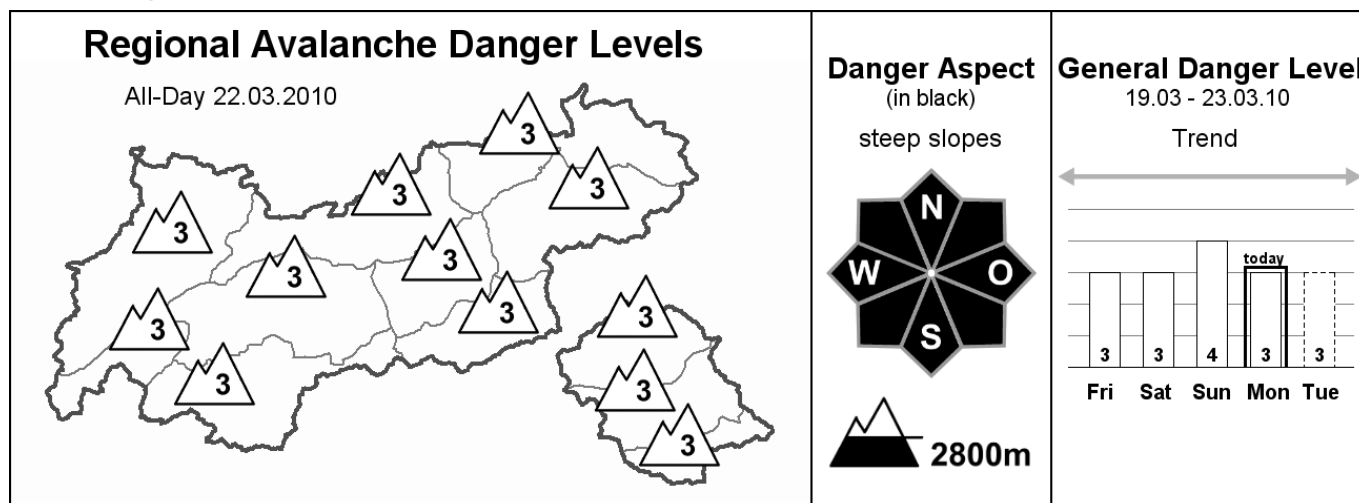


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 22.03.2010, at 07:30



Treacherous avalanche situation - Beware wet snow avalanches

AVALANCHE DANGER

Unfavourable conditions continue to reign in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions. The avalanche danger level remains, at very least, considerable. Again today, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected during the morning hours. From starting zones which have not yet discharged, these avalanches can reach large size and thereby place exposed parts of transportation routes at risk. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions, on sunny slopes primarily below about 2800 m, on shady slopes the upper borderline is somewhat lower. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative. Furthermore, both approach roads and ascents to mountain huts are currently imperiled.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in Tyrol, there has been a small amount of snowfall. The snowpack is thoroughly wet on sunny slopes up to about 2500 m, on shady slopes the surface is moist. Due to reduced or entirely lacking outgoing radiation during the night, the snowpack could not consolidate sufficiently. The very poor snow layering this winter was confirmed by numerous avalanches yesterday. There were frequent naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides. The main cause of the snowpack's proneness to triggering can be found in the embedded layers of depth hoar which provide a perfect bed surface for avalanches. Since the snowpack will rapidly lose its firmness again today, frequent naturally triggered avalanches can again be expected. Through avalanche corridors which have not yet discharged, moreover, exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a weak disturbance over the Mediterranean will supply moist air masses to Tyrol today. Tomorrow, a high pressure system will dominate, the air will become drier. As of Wednesday, the foehn wind will return to Tyrol. Mountain weather today: the summits will initially be shrouded in clouds, the sun will penetrate this blanket over the course of the day primarily in the Limestone Northern Alps and the Tux Alps. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in the the Southern Alps, it will remain generally overcast, intermittent snow flurries are possible, snowfall level 1800 to 2100 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Mostly light southwesterly winds will prevail at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Continuing danger of wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe