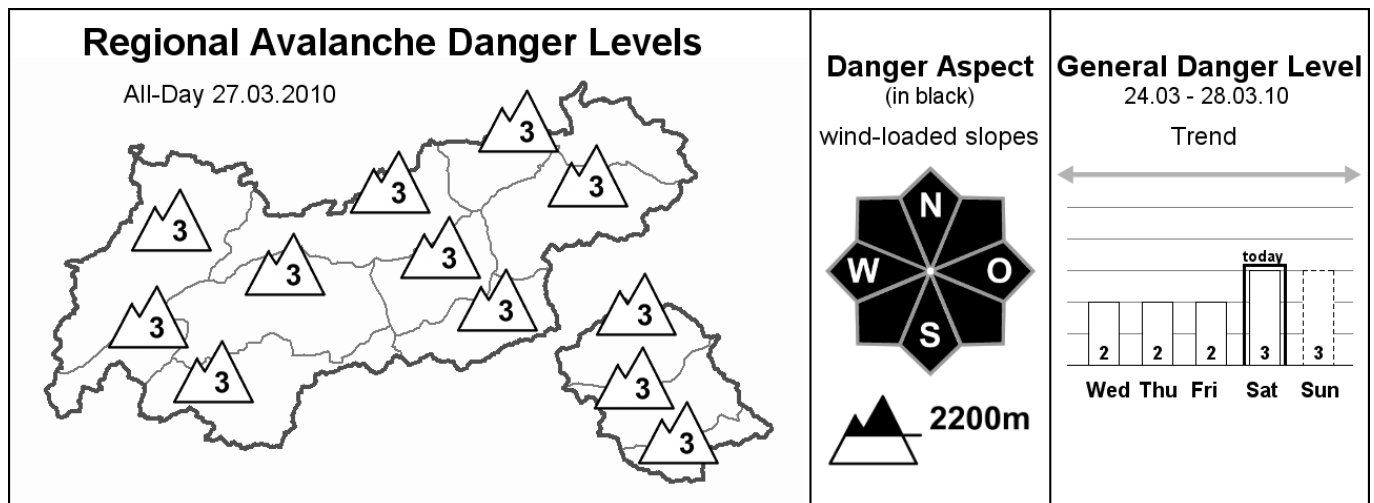


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 27.03.2010, at 07:30



Snowfall and wind create considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

Backcountry touring conditions are rather unfavourable today, the avalanche danger is considerable widespread. The major hazard stems from the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which are inadequately bonded to the old snowpack surface and can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep and wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. Below about 2200 m, caution is urged towards naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and moist sluffs. In isolated cases, avalanches can sweep along the old snowpack and attain large size. Backcountry tours in outlying terrain make extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche perils essential.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours along the Main Alpine Ridge and the East Tyrol Tauern Ridge there has been up to 20 cm of snowfall, in remaining Tyrol there was generally 10 cm. The snowfall level dropped from about 2000 m initially down towards 1200 m. The snowfall was accompanied by strong to storm velocity southwesterly winds, which in the afternoon shifted to westerly. Thus, the new fallen snow in high alpine regions was transported. Fresh fallen snow and snowdrift cover and conceal a generally unfavourable old snowpack which at low and intermediate altitudes is thoroughly wet. In addition, the fundament consists largely of faceted, loosely packed snow crystals. This is a very weak, trigger sensitive layer for the snowdrift masses which have been deposited atop it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: moist air is being supplied to the Alps in a high altitude current. Mountain weather today: in the early morning hours, particularly in the Allgäu Alps, later in the morning in the Karwendel it will be overcast amidst scattered snow flurries. Elsewhere in the Northern Alps it will be quite sunny. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be sunny to begin with, this afternoon convective cloud will arise and some precipitation is possible, Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate westerly winds, in the higher mountains winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will recede only very gradually.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe