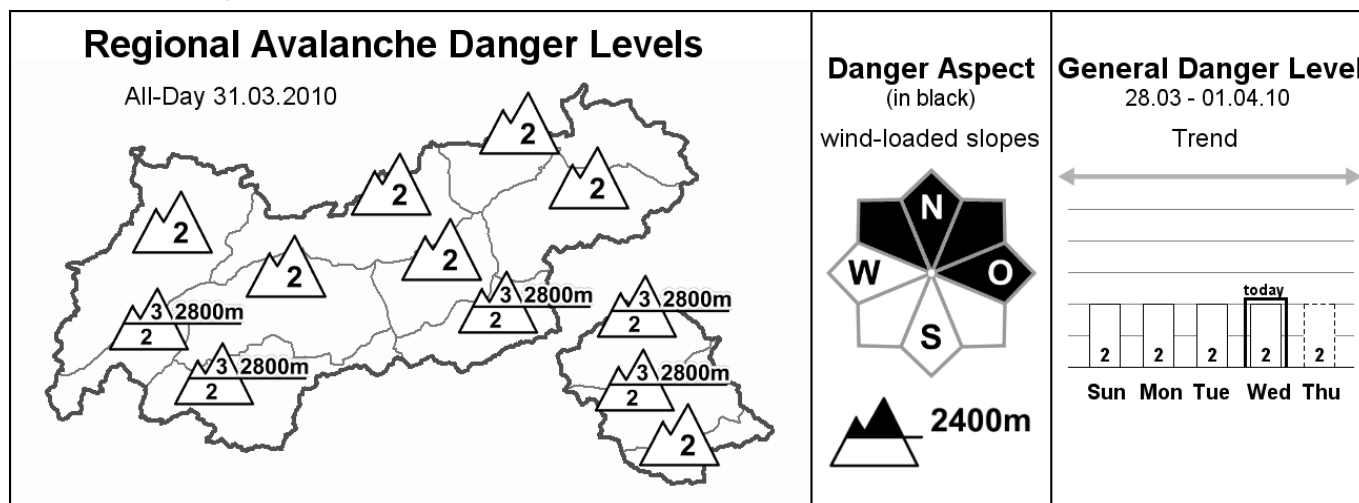


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 31.03.2010, at 07:30



Caution towards fresh snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation has improved somewhat due to the drop in temperatures. Below about 2800 m, moderate danger generally prevails; above that altitude along the Main Alpine Ridge, it is considerable. Avalanches are most likely today from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions, which are to be found increasingly in very steep northwest to north to east facing terrain adjacent to ridge lines and can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In the regions with lots of new snow which are also exposed to sunshine, small sized loosely packed snow avalanches are also possible today in rocky terrain. Elsewhere, avalanches can be triggered on very steep slopes, particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, primarily by large additional loading. This is especially likely on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been some snowfall in Tyrol, most of it in the southern Ötztal Alps and in East Tyrol, with up to 25 cm. In remaining Tyrol, there was generally 5-10 cm of snowfall. The strong southerly winds have now slackened off and shifted to westerly. The bonding of the fresh snowdrift with the old snowpack is generally quite good, although somewhat poorer in high alpine regions. The drop in temperatures ensured the formation of a melt freeze crust last night, which above 2000 m is often capable of bearing loads. Beneath the crust, the snowpack is moist in all expositions up to 2400 m; above that altitude it is moist on sun bathed slopes. The deeply embedded layers of loosely packed depth hoar above 2400 m still provide a potential bed surface for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

During the morning, weather conditions will improve from the west, providing sunny intervals. The summits are still struggling against fog and showers will be possible from the increasing convective cloud this afternoon. Snowfall level at 1100 to 1500 m. The mountains in East Tyrol are more susceptible to showers. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As long as temperatures remain relatively low, generally favourable conditions.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe