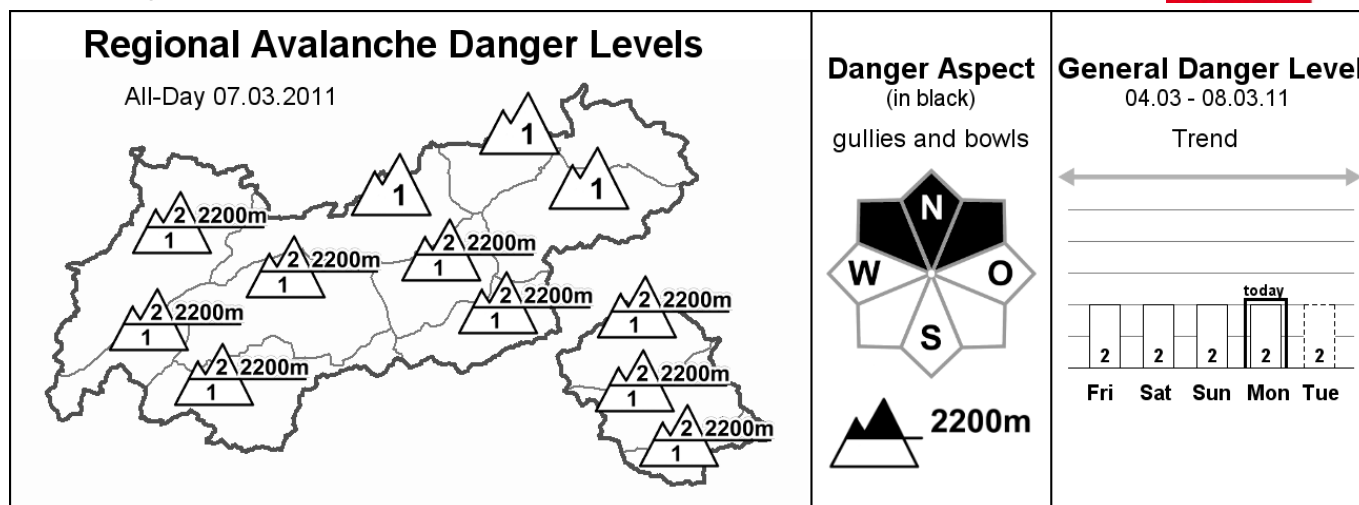


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 07.03.2011, at 07:30



Increasingly favourable backcountry touring conditions, small critical zones on shady slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation is improving: both in the Northern Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps the danger level is generally low, in remaining Tyrol it is moderate above 2200 m, low below that altitude. Avalanche prone locations are limited to steep, north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m, where primarily through large additional loading, small to medium sized avalanches can be triggered, particularly in areas which have been unfrequented throughout the winter thus far. In addition, especially at high altitudes in areas adjacent to ridge lines in eastern exposition, fresh snowdrift requires caution. Due to the very dry air, the danger will not change over the course of the day.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack below about 2200 m is quite stable. Between 2200 and about 2500 m, thin melt freeze crusts are interspersed with loose layers inside the snowpack. These are bonding, but particularly on north facing slopes, can serve as bed surfaces for slab avalanches. Above 2500 m, particularly in areas with shallow snow, e.g. broad ridges, there are small patches of depth hoar, usually indicated by settling noises, which can cause isolated avalanches. In high alpine regions, the snowpack is becoming increasingly compact due to ongoing wind influence. Fresh snowdrift is often not ideally bonded with the old snowpack in those regions. Around midday today, in steep, sunny terrain beneath about 2500 m, firn snow will be prevalent; whereas on shady slopes, powder will have the upper hand.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tyrol lies at the southern rim of a powerful high pressure system whose center is over northern Germany and Poland. The air is dry and relatively mild, especially towards the west. Mountain weather today: residual fog at 2000 m will incrementally disperse, the sun will appear and good visibility will prevail in high alpine regions. The freezing level this afternoon will be just under 2000 m in western regions and 1400 m in eastern regions. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate to brisk northeasterly to easterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasingly spring-like conditions

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe