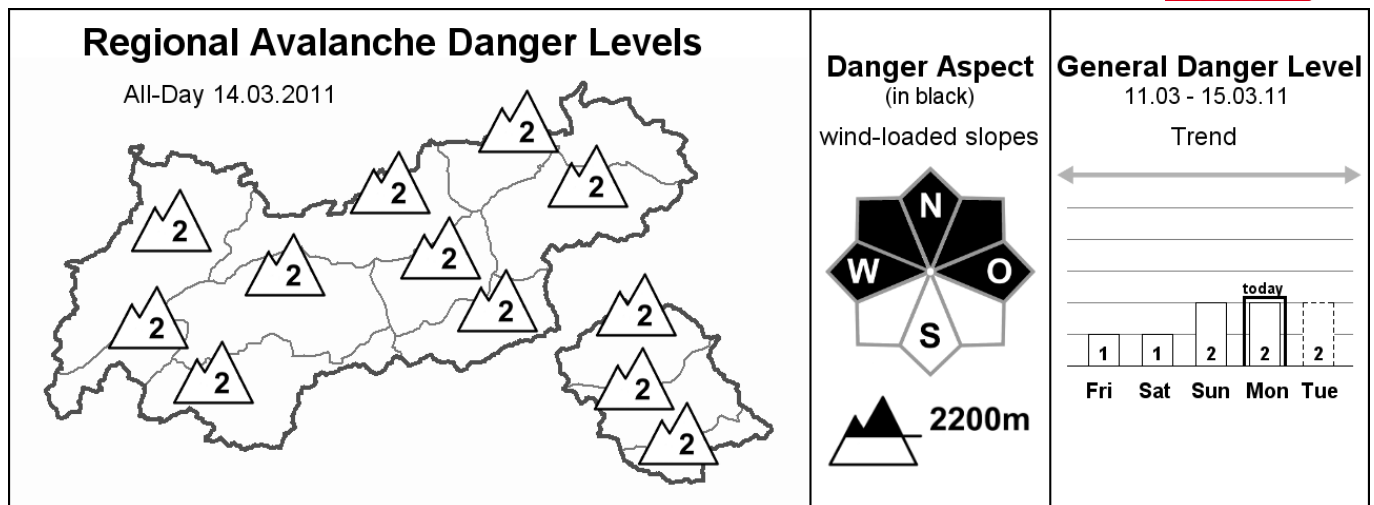


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 14.03.2011, at 07:30



Moderate avalanche danger far and wide - Beware fresh snowdrift in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is moderate far and wide. The major peril stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations, which were brought about in the latest foehn wind period. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m in western to northern to eastern exposition. Isolated naturally triggered moist sluffs and wet snow avalanches are likely in all regions today. On steep, grass covered slopes, full depth snowslides are also possible.

SNOW LAYERING

During the night the skies were generally overcast, thus impeding the snowpack from regaining its firmness. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack surface is often covered by a brittle melt-freeze crust; the melting process is rapidly making the slopes increasingly bare of snow. In high alpine regions, the snowpack surface is heavily influenced by winds in general: windblown areas alternate with drifted spots and hard compacted areas. Fresh snowdrift accumulations, which have arisen through the strong to stormy foehn winds, require great caution. These snowdrift masses are often inadequately bonded with the old snowpack, making them relatively easy to trigger as avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a low pressure system with its center over Portugal is bringing a southerly to southwesterly high altitude air current to the Alps. This low will move on towards central Europe on Wednesday. Following today's respite from the foehn, the wind will regain dominance on Tuesday, creating barrier cloud effects on the southern flank of the Main Alpine Ridge. Mountain weather today: the higher summits will often be shrouded in cloud until midday, visibility impeded. This afternoon between the Ortler, Wildspitze and Zugspitze ranges, it will turn sunny, with only a few cirrus clouds; east of the Karwendel, the clouds will persist. Relatively poor visibility in the Dolomites and the Carnic Alps, the snowfall is expected to taper off during the day. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. The southwesterly winds will slacken off only temporarily to light or moderate velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing moderate avalanche danger widespread

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe