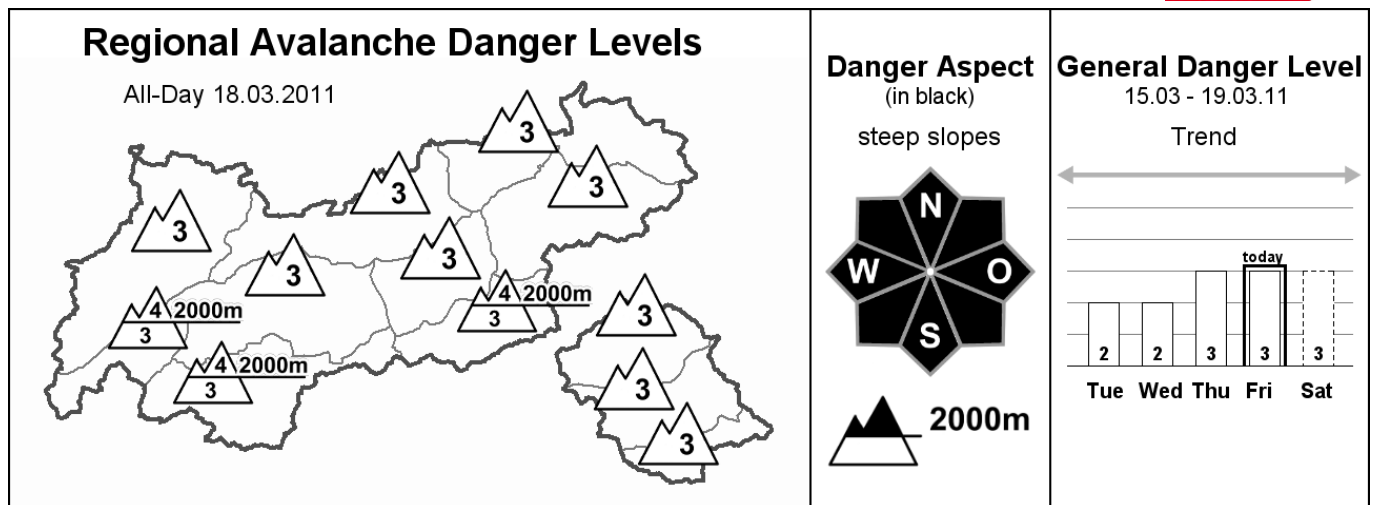


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 18.03.2011, at 07:30



### Avalanche situation is treacherous, amidst considerable danger

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tyrol is treacherous, the danger level is considerable widespread. Both new fallen snow and snowdrift are poorly bonded with the old snowpack and can be triggered as avalanches even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. In isolated cases, released avalanches can also sweep along more deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack and attain medium size, thereby endangering exposed transportation routes. Below about 2000 m, since the snowpack is thoroughly wet, caution is urged towards naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, experience in evaluating the avalanche situation is imperative.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, the snowfall has moved further and further north from East Tyrol. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Silvretta, there has been 30 to 50 cm of fresh fallen snow. In the Arlberg/Ausserfern region and along the Northern Alps, there was generally 20 to 30 cm of snowfall, more from place to place. The snowfall in the Lower Inn Valley was significantly less (more rain), and the precipitation has also tapered off in East Tyrol. Strong northwesterly winds are creating vast snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions. New fallen snow and snowdrift blanket a highly trigger sensitive old snowpack, particularly at altitudes between 2200 and 2800 m: the old snowpack surface is often faceted and loose, on the one hand; and on the other, weak layers are embedded more deeply inside the snowpack which can serve as bed surfaces for avalanches. Below about 2000 m, the snowpack is thoroughly wet in all expositions and has lost much of its firmness.

#### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the low pressure system, with its center over Hungary, is weakening and moving its entire weather front slowly towards the east. The next disturbance will arrive in Tyrol on Saturday, after which a powerful high pressure system will gain the upper hand. Mountain weather today: the Northern Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge are shrouded in cloud and fog, with correspondingly poor visibility. The snowfall will taper off, however. In the Southern Alps, the precipitation will soon be over and visibility is expected to improve. It is very windy in places. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Brisk to strong norwesterly winds at high altitudes, in eastern regions the winds will even reach storm strength in places.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Additional snowfall will continue to bring considerable avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe