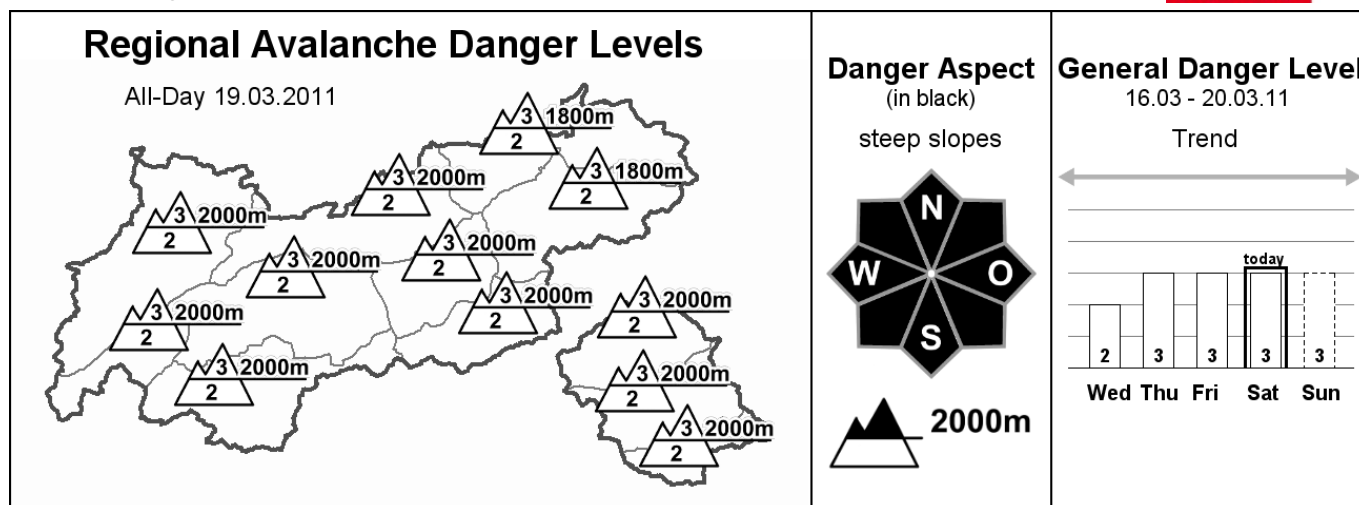


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 19.03.2011, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread - Touring possibilities are limited

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is considerable far and wide. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, in particular, are inadequately bonded with the old snowpack and can be triggered as avalanches even by minimum additional loading. Evaluating the avalanche hazards is more difficult today, since the danger zones are blanketed over by a few centimeters of new fallen snow, making it hard to spot the perilous spots. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours require experience in assessing avalanche dangers. Below about 2200 m, especially in avalanche starting zones which have not yet discharged, isolated moist sluffs and wet snow avalanches are likely today.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been noteworthy snowfall only along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Northern Alps. Overall during this last period of precipitation along the Main Stubai and Ötztal Ridges, in the Silvretta, in the western part of the Northern Alps and in the Carnic Alps, there was between 50 and 80 cm of new fallen snow. In the remaining regions of North and East Tyrol there was usually 20 to 40 cm of fresh fallen snow, least of all in the Lower Inn Valley. Brisk to strong velocity northwesterly winds gave rise to new snowdrift accumulations, particularly in high alpine regions. The snow layering is least favourable between 2200 and 2800 m, where there are some weak layers interspersed in the old snowpack which can serve as bed surfaces for avalanches. The old snowpack surface in shady zones is also quite loosely packed; thus, the latest snowfall and snowdrift masses are poorly bonded with it. Below about 2200 m, the snowpack is thoroughly wet, which has caused it to forfeit its stability.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A disturbance which is embedded in a northerly air current will sweep across Tyrol today, bringing some precipitation and a drop in temperatures in the mountains. Tomorrow, Sunday, a high pressure system will regain dominance for a few days. Mountain weather today: North Tyrol's peaks are shrouded in cloud and fog, accompanied by intermittent snowfall. By tomorrow morning, about 5 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated, from place to place as much as 10 cm. Temperatures will drop somewhat. The Southern Alps are free of cloud, except for occasional summits, the visibility is diffuse, occasional snow flurries are possible. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate to brisk northwesterly winds, shifting increasingly to northeasterly this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

On Sunday, the avalanche danger is still considerable, thereafter it will recede.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe