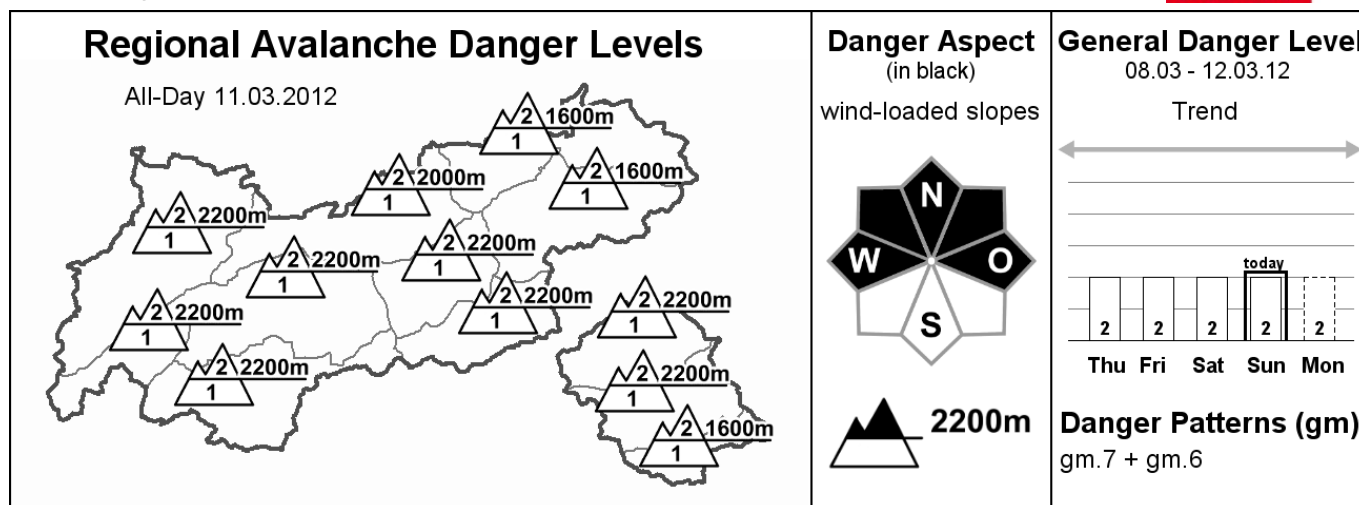


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 11.03.2012, at 07:30



Moderate avalanche danger above 2200 m - Beware fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is moderate far and wide above approximately 2200 m. The major peril stems from old snowdrift accumulations which formed in the middle of this last week, together with the fresh drifted snow of today. These masses can in isolated cases still be triggered with relative ease, even though they usually remain small in size. Their frequency and spread will increase over the course of the day, due to wind. Transition areas from deep to shallow snow should also be evaluated with great care. The hazards of full depth snowslides and wet snow avalanches have diminished somewhat, but they can still be expected to release naturally in isolated cases on steep, east to south to west facing slopes, particularly below about 2400 m.

SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack has settled well in general, it is solid and stable. However, on sunny slopes up to about 2400 m, on shady slopes up to about 1600 m, the snowpack is thoroughly wet. Sunny slopes usually have a melt freeze crust on the surface which is capable of bearing loads; on shady slopes, the surface is often loosely packed and powdery. But caution, today: due to stormy northwesterly winds, new, small sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low pressure system is moving from the Baltic in the north to the Balkan peninsula in the south today, squeezing the high pressure system in the west out of our field of influence temporarily. This northerly to northeasterly air current will become strong to stormy. A perturbation embedded inside it will only brush Tirol superficially, in the Lower Inn Valley in particular. Tomorrow, Monday, the air pressure will start to rise again; as of Tuesday, the high pressure system will return. Mountain weather today: winds will reach storm strength, particularly in narrow forest lanes and on knolls and ridges of the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps. In addition, between 2000 and 3000 m, poor visibility is anticipated widespread due to clouds, accompanied by light snowfall. Especially in the Northern Alps between the Karwendel and the Wilder Kaiser, a few centimeters of fresh fallen snow is possible by tomorrow morning. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Moderate northerly to northeasterly winds, at high altitudes the winds will reach strong to storm velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Generally moderate avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe