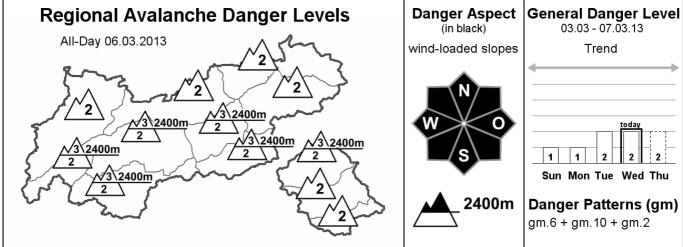
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Wednesday, 06.03.2013, at 07:30





Above 2400m widespread avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions has increased: above about 2400 m it is considerable widespread. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which formed yesterday and will continue to accumulate today. They are generally small sized, but brittle and thus, easier to trigger. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release an avalanche, i.e. the weight of a single person. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in ridgeline areas of all aspects; the trigger sensitivity is higher on shady slopes. The transition areas from deep to shallow snow need to be assessed extremely critically. Below about 2400 m, isolated naturally triggered loosely packed avalanches and full depth snowslides are likely as of late morning.

SNOW LAYERING

The strong southerly foehn yesterday, in foehn-exposed regions at storm strength, gave rise to wide ranging snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions. Particularly on shady slopes the drifted masses have frequently been deposited atop a loosely packed old snow surface; this makes them highly prone to triggering and easy to release as avalanches. Caution: again today, fresh snowdrift accumulations are expected to form anew due to the ongoing foehn winds. Below about 2400 m the snowpack will lose its firmness over the course of the day through the increasing warmth.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A powerful southwesterly foehn-driven air current remains dominant again today, tomorrow it will taper off in the valleys and weaken significantly in the mountains. Mountain weather today: Particularly on foehn-exposed mountains and along the foehn corridors of North Tirol, storm strength southerly winds, but windy elsewhere as well. Diffuse to poor visibility in the central and southern sectors of the Alps, amidst possible light snowfall. On the northern flank of the Alps, adequate visibility accompanied by bright spells. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Brisk to stormy southerly winds at high altitudes, in foehn corridors reaching gale strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As foehn winds come to an end, avalanche danger will slowly decrease

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe

