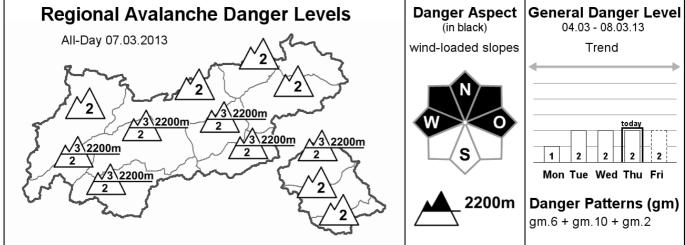
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Thursday, 07.03.2013, at 07:30





Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is moderate widespread; regionally above approximately 2200 m the danger level is considerable. Most of all, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering and can be released even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single skier or freerider. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in drifted gullies and bowls, especially W to N to E facing. Below about 2400 m naturally triggered full depth snowslides are expected over the course of the day, particularly on steep, grassy, E to S to W facing slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The strong to stormy southerly foehn wind transported massive amounts of snow yesterday, bringing about fresh, brittle snowdrift accumulations anew. Especially on shady slopes these drifted masses are frequently deposited atop a loose, light old snowpack surface, which makes them relatively easy to trigger. The surface is now heavily impacted by winds, especially in high alpine regions. Utterly windblown spots or wind-hardened surfaces often lie immediately adjacent to deeply drifted gullies and bowls.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The southwesterly airstream is weakening at high altitude. Towards the weekend, a low pressure front will reach the Alps, bringing variable weather conditions. Towards the middle of next week, a current of wintery cold air will reach Tirol from the northeast. Mountain weather today: On the northern flank of the Alps there will be some sunshine, some cloud. The summits are generally clear. From the Main Ridge southwards, the cloud will accumulate against the alpine barrier, impeding visibility. Intermittent light snowfall is possible, especially east of the Dolomites (snowfall level at 1500 m). Temperature at 2000 m: in northern regions 1-5 degrees, in southern regions, zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Excluding in the classic foehn exposed regions, only moderate southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will slowly diminish

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe