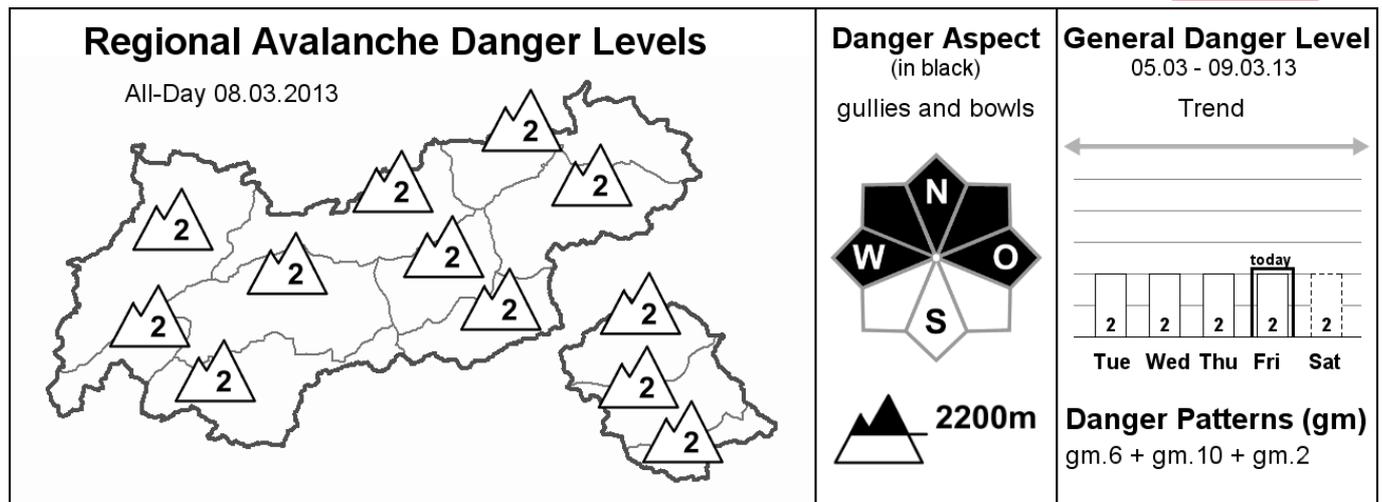


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 08.03.2013, at 07:30



Predominantly moderate danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is moderate far and wide. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which have formed repeatedly over the course of the week, which are brittle, and thus, quite prone to triggering. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in drifted gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m, particularly on W to N to E facing slopes. Transition areas from deep to shallow snow also need to be assessed with great care, since they can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Below about 2400 m the snowpack forfeits its firmness somewhat through daytime warming and solar radiation. As of late morning, for that reason, isolated naturally triggered loosely packed avalanches as well as full depth snowslides are likely.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowdrift accumulations brought about by the recent bout of foehn winds were generally deposited atop a loose, light old snow cover on shady slopes. Since the snowdrift itself tends to be brittle, these accumulations can be released with relative ease. In high alpine regions the snowpack surface has been heavily impacted by winds: windblown spots and wind-hardened surfaces are frequently immediately adjacent to deeply drifted gullies and bowls or small sized snowdrift masses. Below about 2400 m the slight loss in firmness of the snowpack over the course of the day demands additional caution.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure zone north of the Azores is the essential cause of an airstream coming from the west towards Tirol, in which a number of weak perturbances are embedded. Today, renewed foehn is anticipated, before the cloud cover from the west becomes denser. Mountain weather today: lots of sunshine, mild temperatures, light foehn winds. This afternoon, cloud will move in from the west, creating diffuse light, later on the summits will become shrouded. Towards evening in Ausserfern and on the Arlberg, light snowfall could begin. Temperature at 2000m: plus 4 degrees; at 3000m: minus 4 degrees. Light southerly foehn winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Moderate avalanche danger widespread

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe