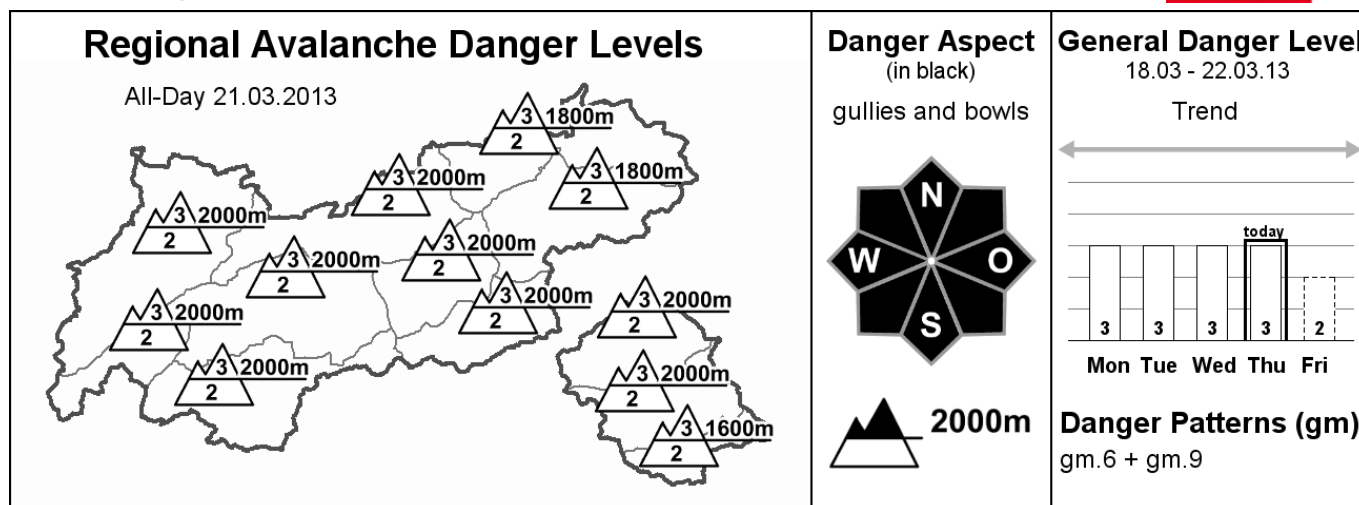


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 21.03.2013, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 2000m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is considerable widespread above approximately 2000m. The major peril stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations which are generally brittle, and thus, can be triggered as avalanches with minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in drifted gullies and bowls and in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects. The frequency and spread of danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain currently require experience in assessing avalanche hazards.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 5-10 cm of snowfall along the Main Alpine Ridge, on East Tirol's Tauern Ridge and in inneralpine regions. Further to the north there was just a small amount of snowfall. The high altitude winds shifted from southerly to westerly yesterday evening, and intensified, thus bringing about new, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations again. These drifted masses which have come about repeatedly over the last week were usually deposited atop loosely packed new fallen snow; the bonding is poor and the trigger sensitivity correspondingly high. Attention: there have also been repeated graupel showers in the last few days; this graupel forms the perfect bed surface for snowdrift to release from!

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: In the wake of a cold front and at the vanguard of an intermediate high, Tirol is caught in cool air masses subject to showers which have accumulated to a barrier front in a fast moving northwesterly air current on the northern rim of the Alps. During the course of the day, the showers will taper off in northern regions as well and it will turn increasingly sunny. Mountain weather today: The swift moving northwesterly airstream plus the cool air masses will bring relatively unpleasant weather conditions, many summits veiled in cloud and repeated snow showers, with intermittent bright spells. In East and South Tirol conditions will be better, but accompanied by northerly foehn winds which will be strong in some places. Temperature at 2000m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000m: minus 12 degrees. Moderate to strong velocity northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Danger of slab avalanches will recede, danger of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides will increase.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe