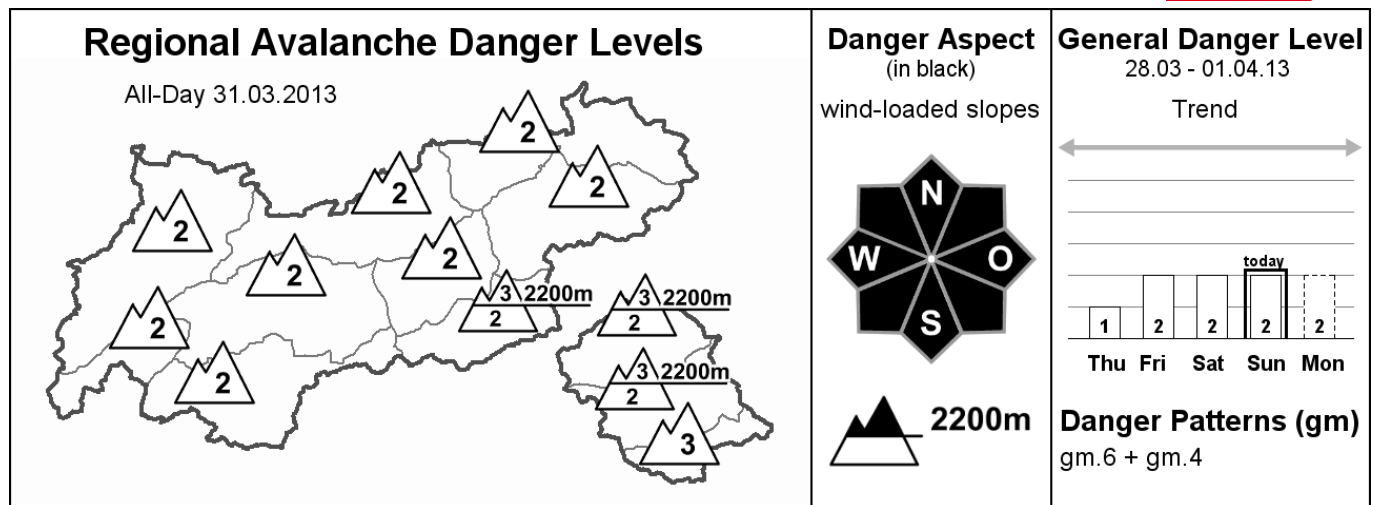


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 31.03.2013, at 07:30



Considerable danger in some southeastern regions, mainly on freshly drifted slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has increased somewhat: in the regions in which the snowfall was heaviest, e.g. Zillertal Alps, East Tirol, the danger level is now considerable above 2200 m; in the East Tirolean Dolomites the danger is generally considerable. Particularly in wind exposed areas the fresh snowdrift can be triggered even by minimum additional loading on steep slopes in all aspects (on shady ridgeline slopes above 2200 m, on E to S to W facing slopes between 2400 and 2800 m). Elsewhere, full depth snowslides are likely below about 2400 m, especially in southern East Tirol on steep, grassy slopes. At low altitudes in very steep terrain where the snowpack is moist, skiers and freeriders can trigger small loose avalanches.

SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday evening there has again been snowfall in Tirol, heaviest in the East Tirolean Dolomites (up to 40 cm). In remaining East Tirol and in the Zillertal Alps there was generally 25-30 cm, in remaining Tirol 5-20 cm, less in the northwestern regions. Over the last few days, a faceted layer has formed near the surface of the old snowpack (between about 2400 m and 2800 m) on sunny, steep slopes which can serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches, particularly in the regions where the snowfall was heaviest. On shady slopes the recently formed snowdrift accumulations, especially above 2200 m, are poorly bonded with the loose powder snow beneath them; their proneness to triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The dominant low over Italy is moving off to the northeast. On the northern flank of the Alps, moist and cold air masses are accumulating against the alpine barrier, by tomorrow these air masses will become drier. Mountain weather today: fog and snow showers until this afternoon, particularly east of the Brenner mountains and the Karwendel, where 10-15 cm of new fallen snow is expected by this evening. In the other mountain ranges further to the west, very little snowfall is anticipated. The higher peaks in the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge might even get a bit of sunshine this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m. minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Numerous loose avalanches expected tomorrow. Slight daytime danger cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe