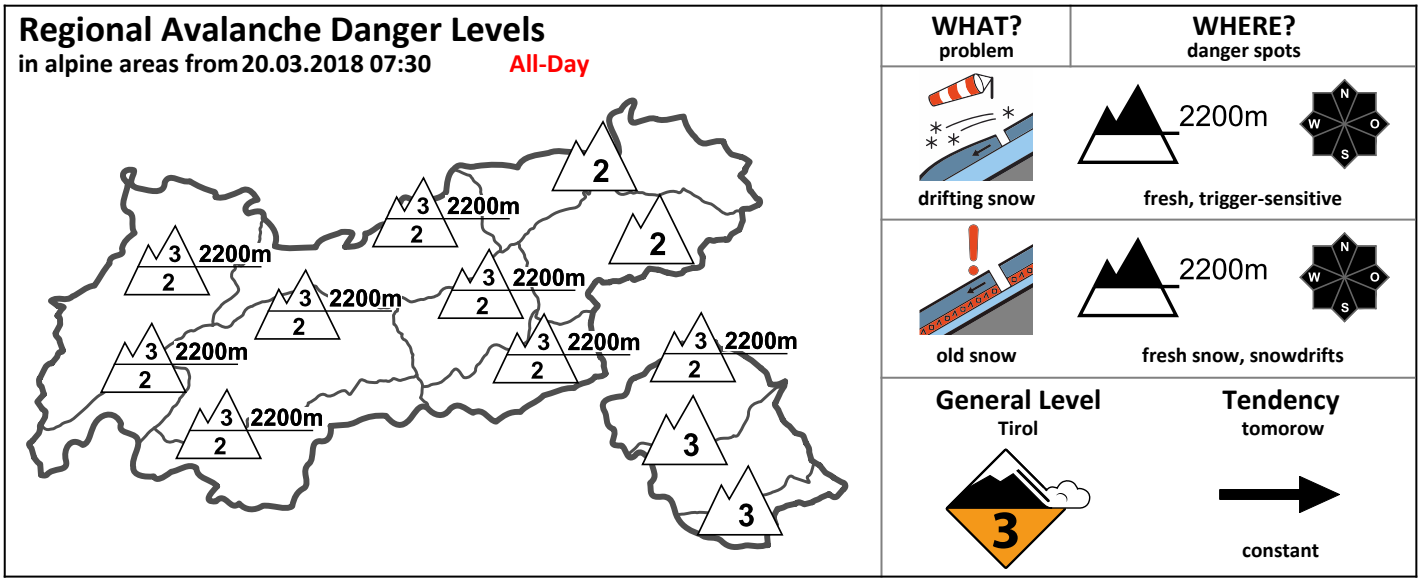
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Tuesday, 20.03.2018, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold

Considerable danger regionally due to fresh snowdrifts

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is considerable from region to region. The main danger stems from freshly generated, and also older, snowdrift accumulations. These drifted masses are poorly bonded with the snow base beneath them and can often be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes and ridgelines in all aspects above 2200 m. Frequency and size of the danger zones tend to increase with ascending altitude. The danger of naturally triggered gliding avalanches has receded somewhat due to the lower temperatures, but they are possible in isolated cases at any time.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 5-10 cm of fresh snow registered widespread. In the Ötztal and Stubai Alps there was 10-30 cm, more from place to place. The N/NE winds at high altitude were mostly light to moderate, but since the fresh fallen snow was very dry and light (due to the low temperatures) it was easily transported. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations were deposited for the most part on top of a loosely-packed layer of fresh snow, making the proneness to triggering high. In addition, older snowdrift accumulations have been deposited atop layers of faceted snow crystals, which also can be easily triggered.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather. The overall weather situation in Central Europe is dominated by a low over the western Mediterranean and a high extending from the Atlantic to the British Isles. The Alps are caught in a N/NE airstream which will bring somewhat less moist, but icy cold, air masses to our region today. By tomorrow, the air moisture will increase again. On Wednesday we will be caught inside the coldest air mass. Mountain weather today. Colder than yesterday, the cloud cover will not be without windows of sunshine, but visibility below 2000 m will be impaired until afternoon. Snowflakes will be only sporadic. In high alpine regions of the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom it will be sunniest, only some cumulus cloud this afternoon, but just as icy cold. At 2000 m: -12 degrees; at 3000 m: -16 degrees. Light to moderate N/NE winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Due to the extreme cold, avalanche danger will diminish only slowly.

Rudi Mair **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**