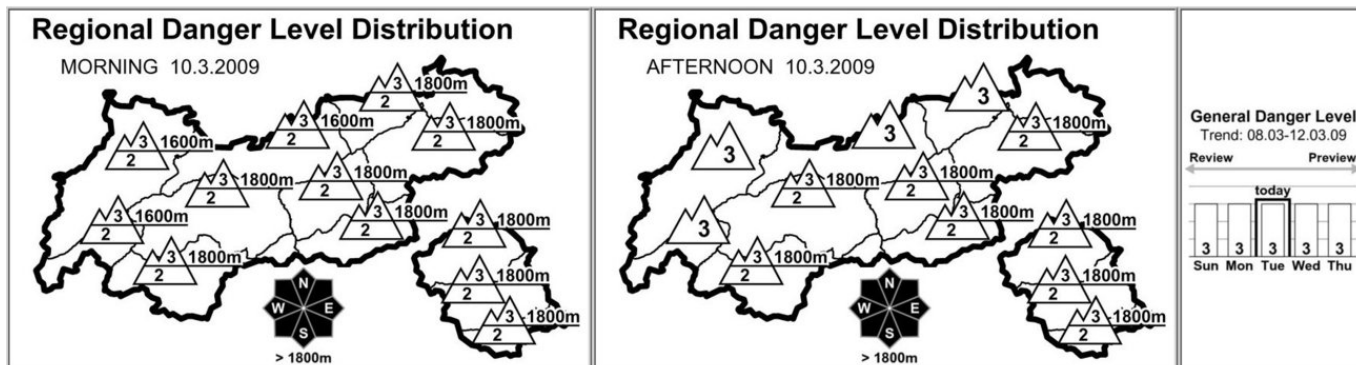


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 10.03.2009, at 07:30



CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER ABOVE 1800 M - BEWARE FRESH SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is still dependent on altitude: above approximately 1800 m, considerable widespread; below that altitude, generally moderate. However, the danger level will rise during the day with the further snowfall: in far western and northern regions of North Tyrol, including low lying areas, to Level 3 (considerable). Avalanche prone locations are found in snowdrift accumulations from recent days which become more frequent and more prone to triggering with increasing altitude. They are in all aspects, especially in areas adjacent to ridge lines and behind breaks in the terrain. Plus, near the treeline and above on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes the snowpack is trigger sensitive, particularly in transition areas from little to lots of snow, where minimal additional loading is sufficient to unleash avalanches which can attain large size, especially in the Zillertal, Stubai, Ötztal and Tux Alps. Isolated natural avalanches are possible in shady, steep multiple starting zones.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it snowed in Tyrol, particularly heavily in the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions (20-40 cm) and western Northern Alps (30 cm), elsewhere generally less (10 cm). Strong winds transported the snow: above the treeline the snowpack is heavily impacted by wind influence, with drifted gullies adjacent to windblown knolls. The drifted masses are generally well bonded with the old snowpack at lower altitudes, but with increasing altitude the bonding becomes ever poorer, thus increasing the likelihood of triggering. Particularly on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above 1800 m, the snow layering is poor, with a loose, faceted layer full of air spaces from mid-January which is poorly bonded with the snowpack above it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a northwest airstream continues to dominate. Tomorrow the current will shift to northerly, precipitation will become heavier, amid north-foehn influence in South and East Tyrol. On Thursday, the moist air masses from the North Sea will taper off temporarily. Mountain weather today: the peaks from Ausserfern to the Kitzbühel Alps are veiled, snowfall is expected, amid strong westerly winds. Poor visibility on the Main Alpine Ridge, but dry. From the Ortler to the Carnic Alps it will be slightly better, but with little sunshine. Brisk westerly winds in the Northern Alps, elsewhere moderate. Brief foehn winds this afternoon, shifting to strong northwesterly winds this evening.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In the western and northern regions of North Tyrol, thoroughly unfavourable conditions, amid lots of new snow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe