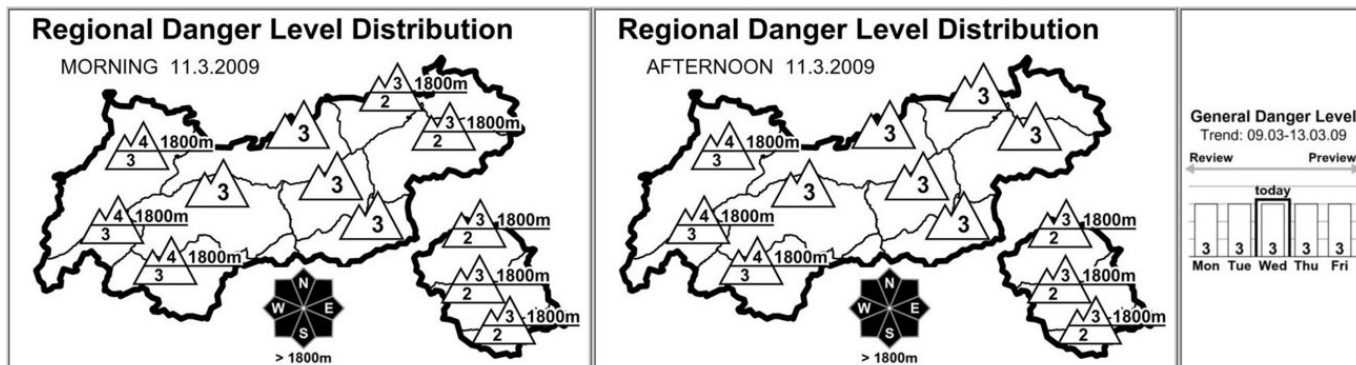


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 11.03.2009, at 07:30



HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER IN PLACES

AVALANCHE DANGER

Thoroughly unfavourable conditions prevail, with considerable danger far and wide, while in some places the danger is high. Steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 1700 m are the most critical, particularly in the Ötztal, Stubai, Zillertal and Tux Alps and on the southern Prealps of Ausserfern. In those regions, the additional precipitation, together with strong winds, make even large sized natural avalanches possible, which can easily endanger exposed transportation routes. In regions with less snow the danger is contingent on altitude: above 1800 m the danger is considerable; below that altitude it is generally moderate. Caution is urged on steep, shady slopes above the treeline, where avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Beware freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, especially prevalent near ridge lines and behind breaks in the terrain: above 1800 m they are trigger sensitive.

SNOW LAYERING

Again it snowed, intensively in places. The Silvretta-Samnaun, the western Prealps of the Stubai and Ötztal Alps, together with the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions received the most: up to 40 cm. Further eastwards there was generally only 10 cm. Strong winds again transported the snowfall. This additional load of new snow plus snowdrift is often enough to weaken further the fundament on steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 1700 m, causing the snowpack to collapse. Even large sized avalanches can follow in the Stubai, Ötztal, Tux and Zillertal Alps. Elsewhere the snowpack is generally moist in low lying areas. Above 1800 m, the bonding decreases more and more, thus raising the likelihood of triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the northwesterly to northerly airstream continues, which in turn guarantees quickly alternating moist and dry air masses. Late winter conditions today; from tomorrow temperatures will rise continually until Saturday. Mountain weather today: wintery. The summits are often shrouded in fog and repeated snowfall is expected. A further 10 to 25 cm of new snow is expected over the Northern Alps and east of the Brenner; in far eastern regions there could be more. The western part of the Main Alpine Ridge will get less snow, as will regions south thereof. Bright spells will be brief. In the Southern Alps it will be dry and generally sunny. Moderate northwesterly winds, at high altitudes winds will be strong. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 to minus 16 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Unfavourable conditions persist!

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe