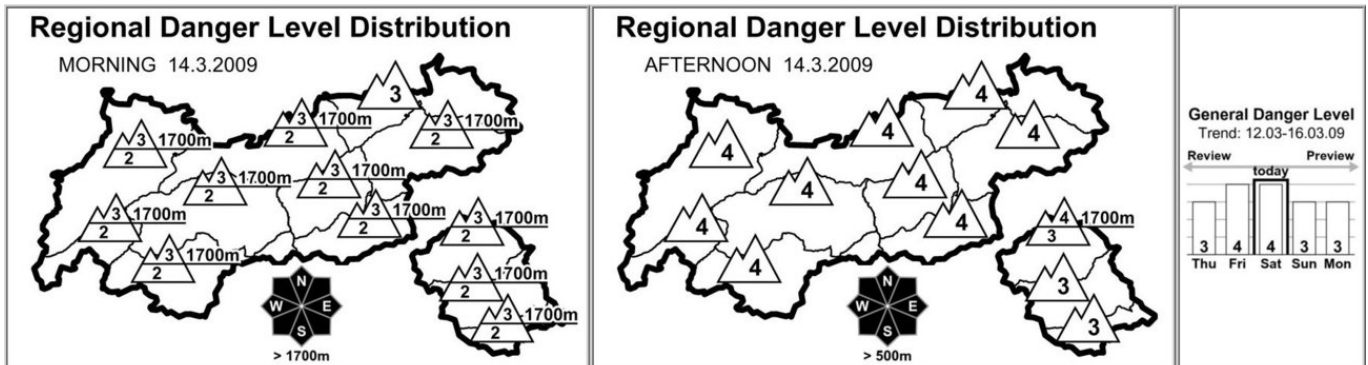


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 14.03.2009, at 07:30



HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER THIS AFTERNOON IN NORTH TYROL AND NORTHERN EAST TYROL

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent both on altitude and on time of day today. Until late morning above approximately 1700 m: generally moderate danger, above that altitude considerable danger, in far northeastern regions considerable danger in general. But the daytime warming and diffuse solar radiation will escalate the danger: the moist, and sometimes thoroughly wet snowpack can then reach danger level "high". In the Silvretta, southern Arlberg and Ausserfern, Tux, Zillertal, Stubai and Ötztal Alps and western Northern Alps, on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing steep slopes between 1700 and 2400 m, natural avalanches are expected which can be large sized and imperil transportation routes. From midday throughout Tyrol on sun-bathed slopes, wet avalanches on very steep slopes are expected, the size of which will depend on the degree of snowpack moistness (the wetter the snowpack, the larger the avalanche), particularly in inneralpine regions below about 2300 m. Ongoing unfavourable conditions for snow sports. In East Tyrol conditions are better, but caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations.

SNOW LAYERING

At the weather stations a slight consolidation of the snowpack is being registered through the surface temperature, but the daytime warming will moisten it rapidly and cause it to lose firmness. On shady slopes up to 2400 m, the pronounced weak layer from mid-January could then be triggered, since the old snowpack atop of it is very poorly bonded with it above 1700 m. On sunny slopes, a melt freeze crust from the end of February is evident inside the snowpack which initially will consolidate the mass. Fresh snowdrift accumulations are trigger sensitive above about 2400 m and can be further weakened by solar radiation up to high altitudes. Winds will slow down the moistening process of the snowpack at high altitudes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: significantly higher temperatures at all altitudes, the freezing level will rise by midday to about 2400 m! The sun will hide behind clouds at times, but the summits will be free of fog. On the southern flank of the Alps, northerly winds will slacken off today, compared to recent days. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Moderate to lively northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The cold front scheduled to arrive tomorrow will improve the situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe