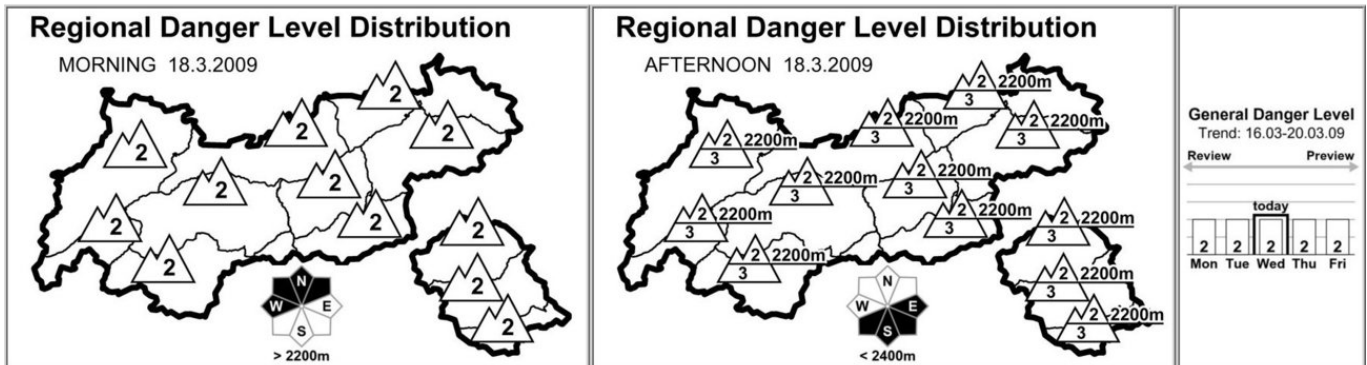


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 18.03.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS THIS MORNING, AVALANCHE DANGER TO INCREASE DURING THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, generally favourable conditions prevail this morning, with moderate avalanche danger. Avalanche prone locations for dry, slab avalanches are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m; caution is particularly urged in transitions from windblown to snowdrifted areas. Below about 2400 m, the snowpack will quickly forfeit its firmness as of late morning, under the influence of solar radiation and daytime warming, and cause naturally triggered wet avalanches and full depth snowslides which will in isolated cases place exposed transportation routes at risk. Especially on sun-bathed slopes, the danger level can rise to "considerable".

SNOW LAYERING

Last night was generally clear, the outgoing longwave radiation was able to consolidate the surface. While on sunny slopes there is a crust capable of bearing loads up to intermediate altitudes, wind protected shady slopes are often still powdery. Beware the poor layering on shady slopes: faceted, loose layers of snow crystals are often embedded. They are trigger sensitive and can serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: Tyrol still lies wedged between a low over Eastern Europe and a high over Western Europe, in a brisk northwesterly air current. The high pressure zone still dominates, but will be displaced by the low as of tomorrow. The southern flank of the Alps has more favourable conditions: some sunshine this morning, diffuse visibility this afternoon from the clouds forming in North Tyrol, but the summits will remain free of clouds. Towards the east and in the Southern Alps, the winds are quite brisk. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 to minus 12 degrees. Brisk northerly winds, in eastern regions the winds are strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Generally moderate avalanche danger continues.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe