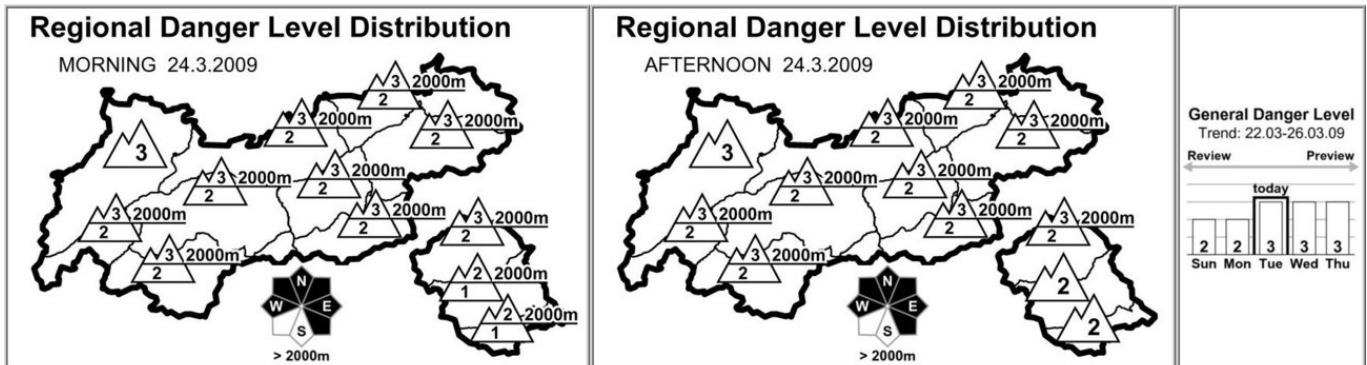


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 24.03.2009, at 07:30



BEWARE FRESH SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS AND STEEP, SHADY SLOPES ABOVE 2000 M!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has escalated somewhat overnight. The conditions in the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions are least favourable, with considerable avalanche danger widespread. Elsewhere in North Tyrol and on the East Tyrol Tauern Ridge the danger is considerable above approximately 2000 m, moderate below that altitude. In southern East Tyrol, the danger above 1800 m is moderate, and generally low below that altitude. The major hazard stems from recently formed snowdrift accumulations which can be easily triggered above 2000 m on north facing slopes, above 2500 m in all other expositions. These avalanche prone locations are prevalent adjacent to ridge lines and below sharp breaks in the terrain, but are usually easy to recognise. In addition, caution is urged on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing steep slopes above approximately 1900 m and especially in wind protected bowls up to approximately 2600 m, where the snowpack can be unleashed by large additional loading in general and by minimum loading in steep terrain. This applies particularly to transitions from little to lots of snow, where avalanches can attain large size. In low lying areas, isolated full depth snowslides are still possible.

SNOW LAYERING

It snowed in Tyrol last night: the greatest amounts fell in Ausserfern and Arlberg, with 20-30 cm; elsewhere in North Tyrol there was 10-15 cm; in East Tyrol about 5 cm. Strong to stormy westerly winds prevail, which are in turn leading to snow transport. The bonding of the snowdrifted masses to the old snowpack is generally good at low and intermediate altitudes, and worsens only with increasing altitude. The old snowpack on east to north to west facing slopes is quite stable, due to the hard melt-freeze crusts which are embedded in it. On shady slopes above approximately 1900 m, there is still a weak layer from mid-January which is trigger sensitive. There is also a loosely packed weak layer near the surface beneath a thin melt-freeze crust. In high alpine regions, ongoing winds have created highly irregular snow layering throughout the winter, which however is predominantly stable.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the northwesterly airstream will persist until Thursday, bringing late winter conditions and low temperatures, with regularly appearing disturbances. Towards the weekend, the current will shift to southwesterly and temperatures will rise, but conditions will remain variable. Mountain weather today: variable and cold. Particularly around midday, the snowfall will pause and the sun become visible. During the afternoon, show showers will increase in frequency. A certain distance south of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be dry and sunny this morning. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds, at times reaching storm strength in the early morning. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees, on the southern flank of the Alps minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 16 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Conditions will be the same tomorrow. New snowdrift will accumulate.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe