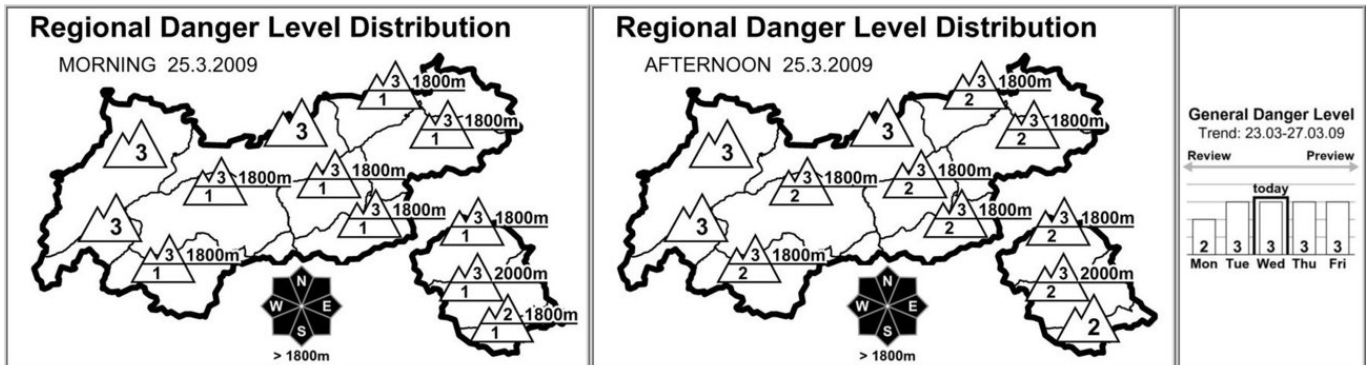


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 25.03.2009, at 07:30



FURTHER ESCALATING DANGER IN THOSE WESTERN REGIONS WITH LOTS OF SNOW AS OF TONIGHT

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is still increasing, due to snowfall and wind. In the western regions which have had lots of new snow, i.e. Silvretta, Arlberg and Ausserfern and the western Northern Alps, considerable danger now prevails widespread. In the remaining regions, danger is contingent on altitude: above the treeline it is considerable, below it generally moderate, in some places even low. The major hazard stems from fresh snowdrift, especially prevalent in western regions of North Tyrol, where on steep, northeast to east to southeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines isolated medium sized natural avalanches can be expected above 2000 m. On extremely steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above 2000 m, caution is urged, especially in transitions from little to lots of snow, where minimal additional loading can trigger an avalanche. Wind protected bowls up to 2600 m are hazardous. In southern East Tyrol, wonderful conditions prevail, although the snowdrift requires caution.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, it has snowed 25-50 cm in the western regions of North Tyrol, in the remaining parts of North Tyrol 10-20 cm, in northern East Tyrol 10 cm. Strong to stormy winds transported the snow and created new snowdrift accumulations which, at lower and intermediate altitudes, are well bonded with the old snowpack, though the bonding worsens with altitude, making them more trigger sensitive. While the old snowpack is generally stable on steep, sun-bathed slopes due to the embedded melt-freeze crusts, on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above 2000 m there is still a weak, faceted layer from mid-January which could serve as a bed surface for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: the cloud cover will lift somewhat, but bright spells will remain rare in North Tyrol's mountains, with the possible exception of the Main Alpine Ridge. Fog is expected during the afternoon, windspeeds will increase and snowfall is expected towards evening, which will intensify in the early morning hours tomorrow. On the southern flank of the Alps there will initially be scattered clouds, with increasing cloudiness in the afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Strong to stormy northwesterly winds in the morning and evening, during the day they will taper off and shift to westerly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger can increase tonight in western regions through the expected snowfall.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe