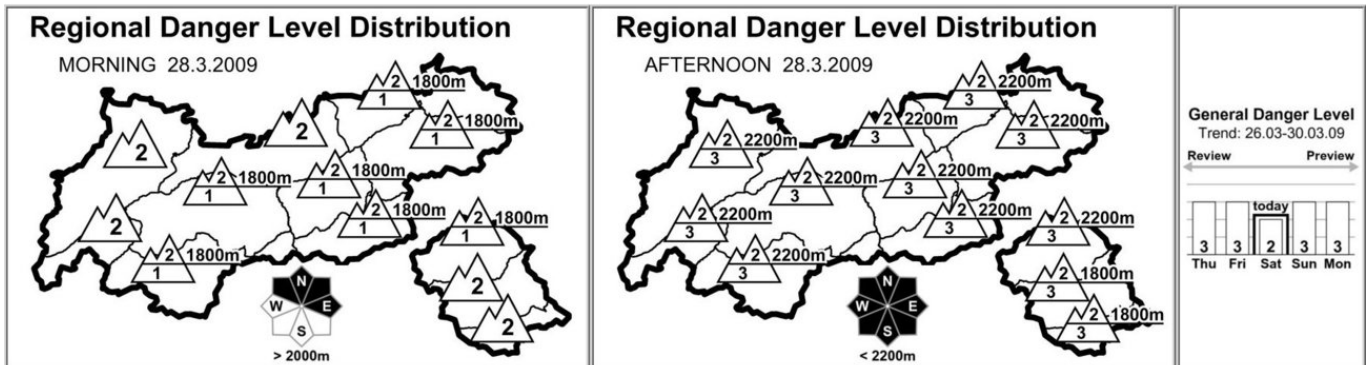


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 28.03.2009, at 07:30



GENERALLY FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS IN THE MORNING...BUT RISING DANGER FROM DAYTIME WARMING

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is subject to a daytime warming cycle, as is typical in springtime. During the morning the danger is low below 1800 m in most regions of North Tyrol and in northern East Tyrol, above that altitude it is moderate. In the course of the day, the snowpack will become moist or wet at low and intermediate altitudes and the hazards will increase. In North Tyrol and northern East Tyrol the snowpack will lose its firmness, in southern East Tyrol the dangers will be amplified by rainfall this afternoon. Natural avalanches can be expected particularly in wind protected, very steep, sun bathed slopes this afternoon at low and intermediate altitudes, and in isolated cases at higher altitudes on extremely steep slopes. The wind will have a favourable effect, slowing the moistening process and the consequent loss of firmness. Beware snowdrift especially above 2400 m near ridge lines: with increasing altitude it becomes more trigger sensitive. Caution also above 2000 m on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, where slab avalanches threaten, particularly in transitions from little to lots of snow, where large additional loading can unleash avalanches.

SNOW LAYERING

A generally breakable crust, which in some places can bear loads, has formed overnight at low and intermediate altitudes, as well as at high altitudes on sun-exposed slopes. This crust will soften during the day, making the snowpack more prone to triggering. Potential bed surfaces for avalanches are found particularly above 2000 m on steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes. Particularly in wind protected bowls up to about 2600 m in Tyrol's inneralpine regions, there is a widespread faceted layer from mid-January which has bonded somewhat with the old snowpack but is still trigger sensitive. Fresh surface layers of snowdrift at high altitudes can be triggered, but are easily recognised.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: sunny conditions can be enjoyed today in North Tyrol along the Northern Alps and the prealps of the Main Alpine Ridge, accompanied by strong foehn winds. The southern flank of the Alps will provide a barrier to the clouds in the south, bringing repeated snow showers. From the Ortler to the Glockner and south thereof, it will be generally foggy and widespread snow showers will soon begin. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Strong, even stormy southerly to southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will increase somewhat due to new snow and rain.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe