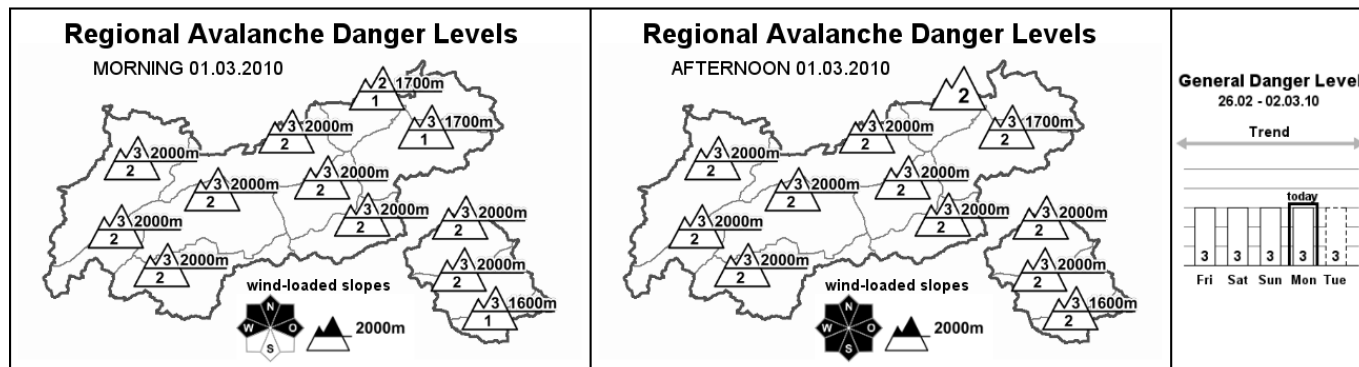


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 01.03.2010, at 07:30



Avalanche danger is considerable above approximately 2000 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above approximately 2000 m, considerable avalanche danger prevails widespread. Below that altitude, the peril has generally receded to moderate due to the predominantly clear night and the consequent cooling off of the snow surface. At low altitudes the danger will be low in some regions this morning. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders are to be found above the treeline and in sparsely wooded, steep forest areas near the treeline, especially in west-northwest to north to east-northeast expositions. Particularly unfavourable at present is a stratum up to about 2600 m, where in unfrequented terrain slab avalanches can still be triggered by minimum additional loading. Above that altitude, the likelihood of triggering recedes somewhat, due to the heavy influence of the wind and the sometimes very hard pressed snowpack. In the remaining expositions in very steep terrain, caution is called for, especially towards the recently formed snowdrift accumulations. In addition, as the snowpack becomes wetter, particularly in steep terrain, slab avalanches can be released especially by large additional loading. In sub bathed terrain riddled with rocks and crags, naturally triggered avalanches are possible this afternoon. Heavily frequented touring routes are currently more favourable. All in all, a situation persists in which extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is absolutely essential.

SNOW LAYERING

In the furthestmost western regions of Tyrol, it snowed or rained last night. Elsewhere the night was generally clear. The moist snow surface up to at least 2000 m in all expositions consolidated accordingly. The layers of depth hoar near the ground, consisting of faceted snow crystals, which are in turn covered by several thin, on south facing slopes by thicker, melt freeze crusts, are still perilous. The surface hoar which was covered by fresh fallen snow ten days ago, particularly on north facing slopes, is a case in point.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Sunny and dry mountain weather today. The westerly to southwesterly wind will slacken off during the day; only along the Northern Alps, from the Lechtal Alps to the Wilder Kaiser, will the westerly wind remain strong. This afternoon, high altitude clouds will move in from the west, visibility will be somewhat impeded by diffuse light. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Along the Northern Alps and in high alpine regions, strong westerly winds, elsewhere generally moderate southwesterly to westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will decrease only gradually.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe