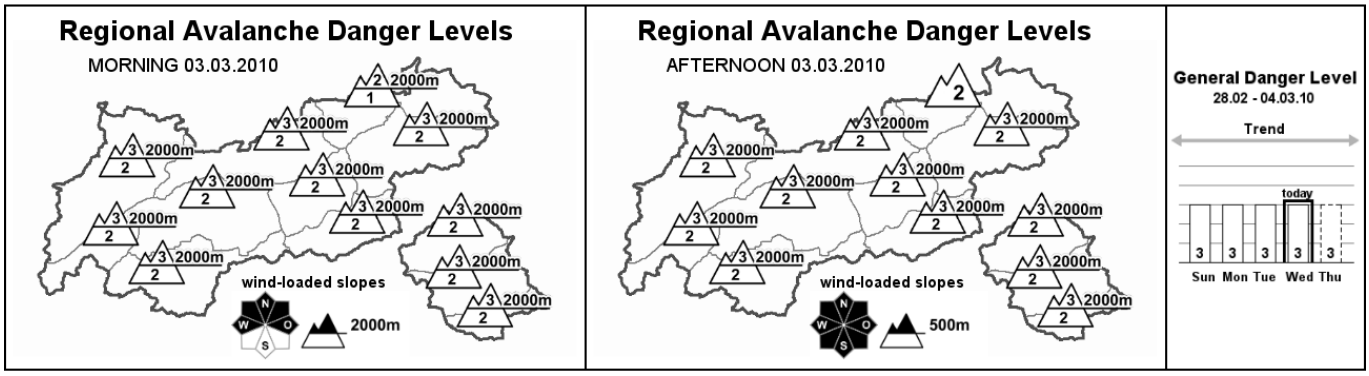
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Wednesday, 03.03.2010, at 07:30



Above 2000 m avalanche danger is generally considerable - and will increase slightly during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger at low and intermediate altitudes has subsided widespread. Above approximately 2000 m, however, considerable avalanche danger still prevails, below that altitude the peril level is moderate, at low altitudes it is low, at least during the morning. Avalanches involving people occur almost daily, confirming the necessity of ongoing restraint when skiing in high alpine regions and in steep terrain. Caution is required on steep slopes which have not been heavily frequented, especially near the treeline on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes. Above about 2400 m, steep, sun bathed slopes are becoming more hazardous; only minimum additional loading can release an avalanche. The conditions in high alpine regions are somewhat better; but extremely hard wind crusts are often evident which particularly in very steep terrain in transition areas from shallow to deep snow can be disturbed by large additional loading. As the snowpack becomes more and more moist, the avalanche danger will increase somewhat over the course of the day. Isolated naturally triggered avalanches are possible on extremely steep, sunny slopes. In general, the likelihood of triggering is expected to increase on sun bathed slopes during the day.

SNOW LAYERING

The pendulum from daytime warming cycle which moistens the snowpack, then nocturnal cooling off, has helped the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes. At very least on sun bathed steep slopes at low and intermediate altitudes, a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads has now formed which has a stabilising effect until it softens during the daytime sun. Many snow profiles throughout Tyrol also demonstrate that there are still, at least above the treeline, many weak layers of depth hoar near the ground. Above approximately 2200 m in the Northern Alps, there is also surface hoar evident in many places, which can serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. On south facing slopes up to about 2400 m, embedded melt freeze crusts are stabilising the snowpack somewhat. The layering is very flawed even at those altitudes, however.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Good weather conditions for winter sports, but with high altitude clouds from the south becoming increasingly dense. This will hide the sun to the south of the Main Alpine Ridge more and more. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**

freephone: +43(0)800 800 503 +43(0)512 581839 503 lawine@tirol.gv.at www.lawine.at/tirol