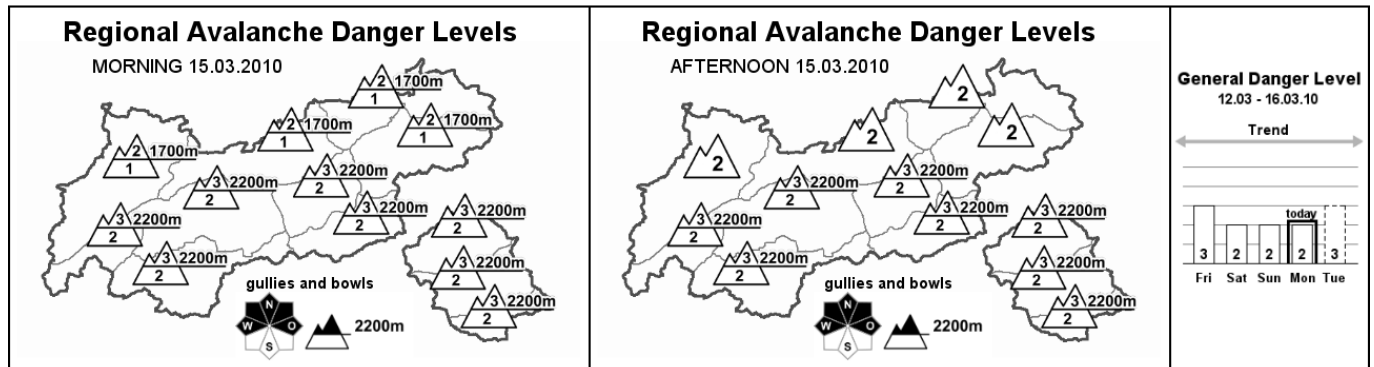


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 15.03.2010, at 07:30



Above approximately 2200 m, still considerable danger regionally, escalating due to snowfall

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the northern regions from Ausserfern to the Kitzbühel Alps, moderate danger now prevails, below 1700 m the danger level is low. Further to the south, at least above approximately 2200 m, the danger level is persistently considerable, below that altitude it is moderate, at low altitudes it is low. The snowfall which is forecast will increase the avalanche danger somewhat, particularly in northern regions. Caution is still urged towards relatively unfrequented, steep terrain, especially above the treeline, where primarily on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes slab avalanches can be released even by minimum additional loading. Above approximately 2400 m, this is the case in other expositions as well. Below about 2400 m, avalanches on east-northeast to south to west-northwest facing slopes can ordinarily be triggered only by large additional loading. In northern regions, particularly on north facing slopes, caution is urged on very steep slopes. Over the course of the day, new snowdrift accumulations will form which, particularly in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, are hazardous. Due to highly variable conditions even across relatively small surface areas, it is difficult even for experienced backcountry skiers and freeriders to spot and assess the perils. Evaluation of hazards is simplest in heavily frequented terrain, where quite favourable conditions now reign.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack at low altitudes is compact. At intermediate altitudes, it is also compact, except on very steep north facing slopes. With increasing altitude, layers of depth hoar become more and more evident in some regions, surrounded by hardened melt freeze crusts and wind crusts. In places with shallow snow, fractures deep inside the old snowpack are quite possible, which is just what occurred in the fatal avalanche accident yesterday below the Nockspitze. At higher altitudes, the wind crusts become more frequent, beneath which a great deal of depth hoar lurks, particularly in exposed places. The snowpack's proneness to triggering is still demonstrated by its settling noises, which can be provoked in flat and moderately steep terrain above the treeline which has until now been unused by backcountry skiers and freeriders.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Wintery weather conditions in North Tyrol's mountains. On the northern flank of the Alps, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is possible by this evening; on the Main Alpine Ridge maximum 10 cm. Lots of fog and brisk winds. On the southern flank of the Alps, windy but sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasing avalanche danger due to snowfall and wind.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe