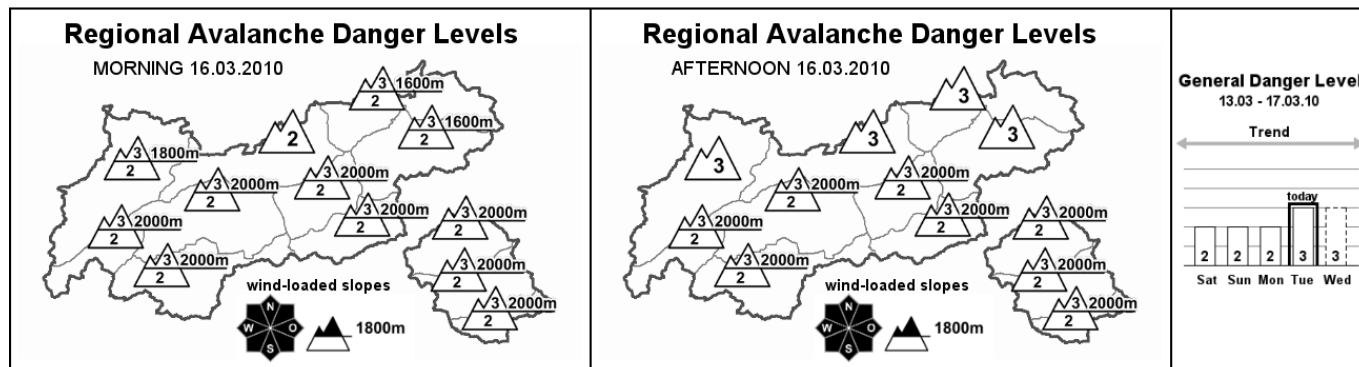


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 16.03.2010, at 07:30



Escalating avalanche danger in northern regions amidst snowfall and winds

AVALANCHE DANGER

Snowfall and wind will lead to a rise in avalanche danger over the course of the day, particularly in Tyrol's northernmost regions, i.e. the Arlberg, Ausserfern, the Northern Alps and the Kitzbühel Alps. By midday at latest, above the treeline, the peril will climb to Level 3, considerable. Below the treeline, the hazards will generally remain moderate, although in regions with especially heavy snowfall where there is also wind, a rise to Level 3 is also possible. Today, even more than usual, great caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in North Tyrol in particular. They are found increasingly in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines in northern to eastern to southern exposition, as well as in gullies and bowls. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release an avalanche, although such avalanches will probably attain medium size at most. The old snowpack can still be disturbed by minimum additional loading, particularly on very steep, unfrequented, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above the treeline, as well as on steep slopes in the remaining expositions above approximately 2400 m. For that reason, the danger above approximately 2000 m will be considerable even in the remaining regions today. Due to poor visibility, we again recommend limiting backcountry tours to heavily frequented terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been up to 20 cm of snowfall in the Arlberg region, Ausserfern, in the eastern part of the Northern Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps. In the course of the day, this same amount of additional snowfall is expected in northern regions. Freshly formed snowdrift is poorly bonded with the highly irregular old snowpack in general, although over relatively small surface areas. Thus, large scale avalanches are improbable. The snow layering near and above the treeline is unfavourable: in the most deeply embedded layers, much depth hoar is evident which has been responsible for most of the avalanches thus far this winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather conditions as in deep winter throughout the mountains of North Tyrol, accompanied by heavy fog. Most of the snowfall will occur along the Northern Alps from the Arlberg to the Kitzbühel Alps, where up to 35 cm of new fallen snow is possible, elsewhere there will be less. During the afternoon in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Ötztal Alps, the first bright spells will become discernible. Sunshine and wind on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Through the rise in temperature, forecast for the next few days, a genuinely treacherous avalanche situation is expected.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe