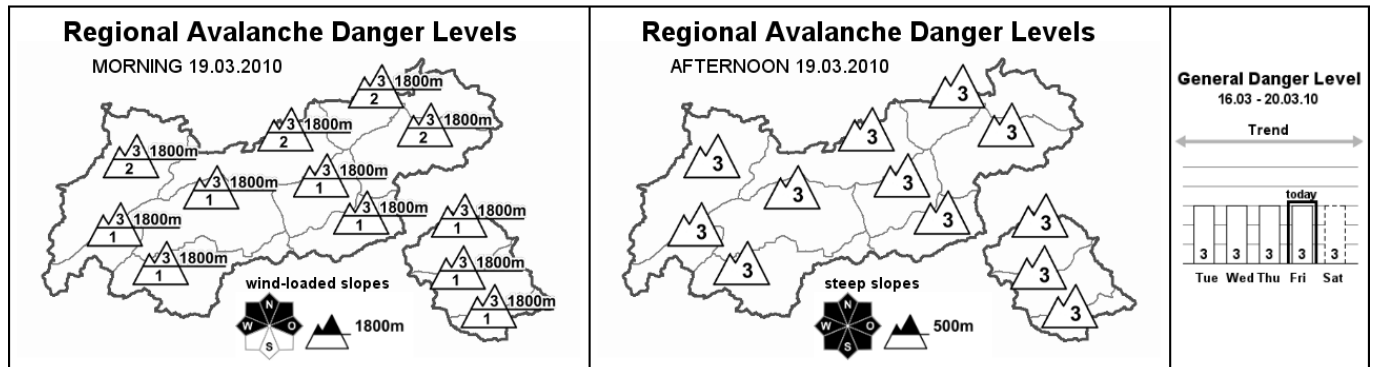


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 19.03.2010, at 07:30



Rising avalanche danger over course of day, more frequent wet snow avalanches this afternoon

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is again today subject to a daytime cycle. During the morning and early afternoon hours below about 1800 m, generally favourable conditions prevail amidst low avalanche peril in some regions. Above that altitude, the danger is considerable, at least above approximately 2000 m. Caution is again urged towards the loss of snowpack firmness over the course of the day. With increasing moistness and/or wetness, the avalanche danger will rise to considerable at all altitudes as of late morning. Backcountry skiers and freeriders are, as of then, more and more likely, at least on steep, sunny slopes, to trigger avalanches. As of late afternoon, the naturally triggered wet avalanches will become more frequent and can sweep along the old snowpack, particularly on sun bathed, wind protected, southeast to south to southwest facing slopes below about 2300 m. Thus, exposed transportation routes may well be placed at risk. Elsewhere the snowpack can be triggered on very steep, shady and generally unfrequented slopes above the treeline even by minimum additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack consolidated well during the night, at least at low and intermediate altitudes in the regions with only a little fresh fallen snow in the furthest south. In places there is a surface crust capable of bearing loads in the early morning, often a breakable crust, and frequently on north facing slopes atop a dry, lightweight, bonded snow. The decisive factor today, at least above approximately 2000 m in all expositions, is the poor snow layering: a deeply embedded hardened, usually relatively thin layer often with several prominent layers of depth hoar beneath it. As the snowpack becomes increasingly moist, this thin layer usually loses its firmness. As the day goes on, triggering an avalanche will become more and more likely. Wind can slow down the moistening process.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mild, increasingly sunny winter sports weather. The clouds of the morning will sweep eastwards, as of afternoon it is expected to be splendidly sunny in most mountain regions. The freezing level will rise to just below 3000 m, the wind will become more brisk during the day. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 1 degree. Moderate to brisk southwesterly winds during the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will increase during the course of the day tomorrow as well.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe