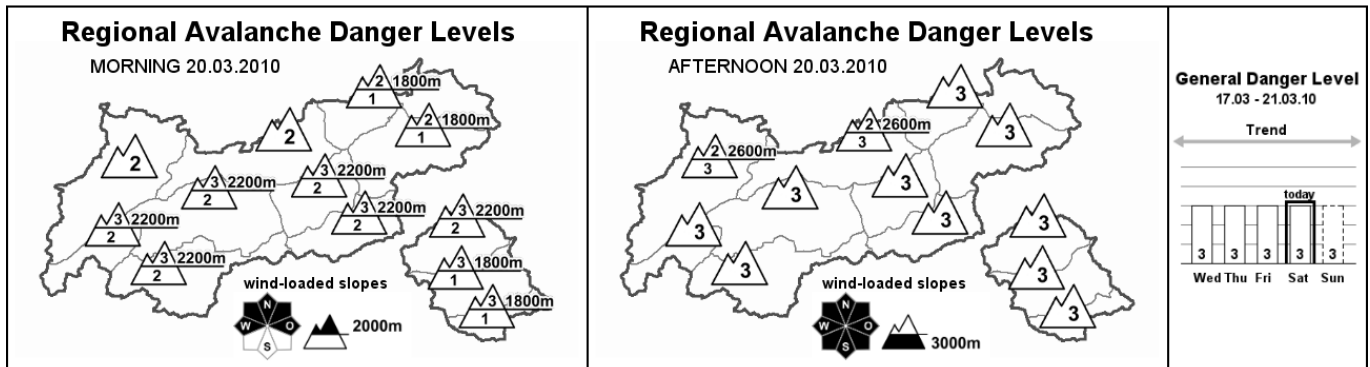


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 20.03.2010, at 07:30



Escalating danger of wet snow avalanches over the course of the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

During the morning hours in most parts of Tyrol, quite favourable conditions will prevail by and large, particularly at low and intermediate altitudes and in sun bathed terrain, where the snowpack has consolidated overnight. The peril below about 1800 m, thus, is low. Above that altitude in the northern regions, the danger is moderate. Further to the south above approximately 2200 m, the avalanche hazards are still considerable. The danger will rise over the course of the day again. As of midday at latest, due to the increasing moistness of the snowpack, the danger level could increase to considerable even at low altitudes; particularly in wind protected areas on very steep, sunny slopes, wet slab and to some extent even loosely packed snow avalanches and full depth snowslides are possible as of the afternoon. The brisker southerly winds in western regions could impede the moistening process and reduce avalanche activity. Exposed parts of transportation routes below steep, sun bathed terrain can again be at risk today. Backcountry skiers and freeriders should depart from south facing slopes as early as possible today, since in very steep, unfrequented terrain near and above the treeline, slab avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Over the course of the day, the danger of triggering an avalanche on steep slopes which are sun-exposed will escalate in general.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack did not consolidate as well last night as in recent days. High altitude clouds were responsible for this. In addition, the snowpack will moisten rapidly today due to the humid air masses and forfeit its firmness this afternoon, particularly at low and intermediate altitudes and on sun bathed terrain. This moistening process is also contingent on the wind strength. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are to be found primarily in the rather thick layers of depth hoar embedded in the snowpack which are prevalent in all expositions above the treeline. On south facing slopes, quite stable melt freeze crusts are often deposited atop this depth hoar, which will lend firmness to the snowpack during the morning hours at least.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

The clouds are well above summit altitude and will continue to recede over the course of the day, making conditions quite sunny at all altitudes. Tonight in the Arlberg region, the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Lechtal Alps, clouds will move in. The outgoing nocturnal radiation will also be impeded by high altitude clouds in other regions. Temperature at 2000 m: maximum plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 1 degree. Moderate to brisk westerly to southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche peril will again increase over the course of the day.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe