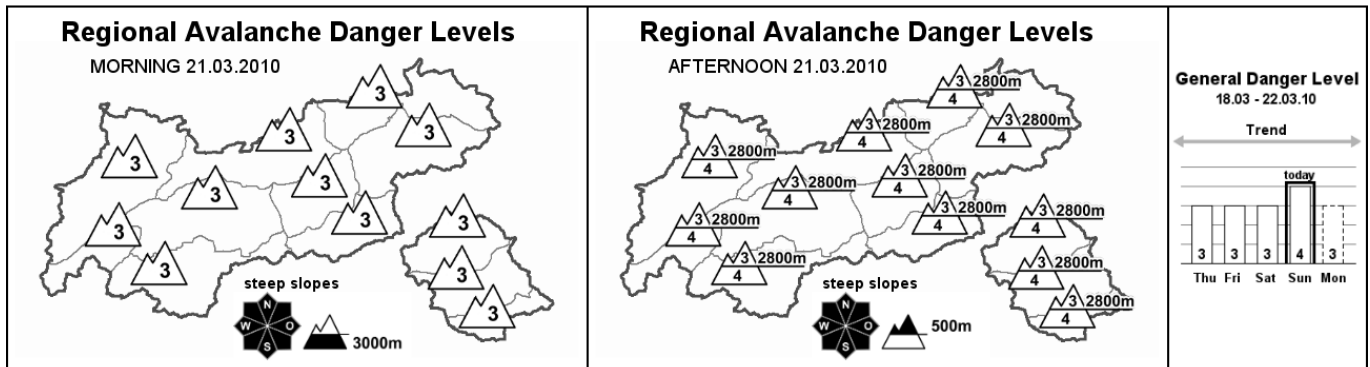


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 21.03.2010, at 07:30



High avalanche danger over course of day! Frequent naturally triggered wet snow avalanches!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has escalated further, even during the morning hours it is considerable. With the expected increased moistening of the snowpack over the course of the day, the peril below about 2800 m will rise to high - Level 4. That means that by late afternoon, similar to yesterday, increasingly frequent naturally triggered avalanches of wet snow can be expected which by now are not only expected in steep, south facing terrain, but more and more on shady, steep slopes below about 2500 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes are at risk in isolated cases. For backcountry skiers and freeriders, thoroughly unfavourable conditions prevail today. The conditions are somewhat more favourable in the less steep, heavily frequented terrain as well as in high alpine regions (above 3000 m), where, however, caution in very steep terrain is urged towards snowdrift accumulations.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack could not consolidate during the night. Thus, up to about 2500 m in west-northwest to north to east-northeast exposition it is moist all the way down to the ground. The snow surface is moist up to 3000 m altitude. Even on shady slopes, the snowpack is moist up to at least approximately 2500 m, below that altitude it is often thoroughly wet. Increasingly, the layers of depth hoar embedded in the snowpack in all expositions are now potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches. The somewhat harder layers deposited atop the depth hoar, which are interspersed with frozen melt freeze canals in many places, are now rapidly losing their firmness. That makes them more and more prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

In the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, on the Arlberg and in the Lechtal Alps, the summits will often be intermittently shrouded in clouds. Above 2000 m, a few snow flurries will bring as much as 5 cm of new fallen snow. East of the Ötztal Alps as far as the Hohe Tauern and the Kitzbühel Alps, it will be intermittently sunny, with light snowfall not expected until this evening. In the Southern Alps, it will remain dry today, but heavily overcast. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 degrees. Brisk southwesterly winds, in high alpine regions the winds will be strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing unfavourable conditions.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe