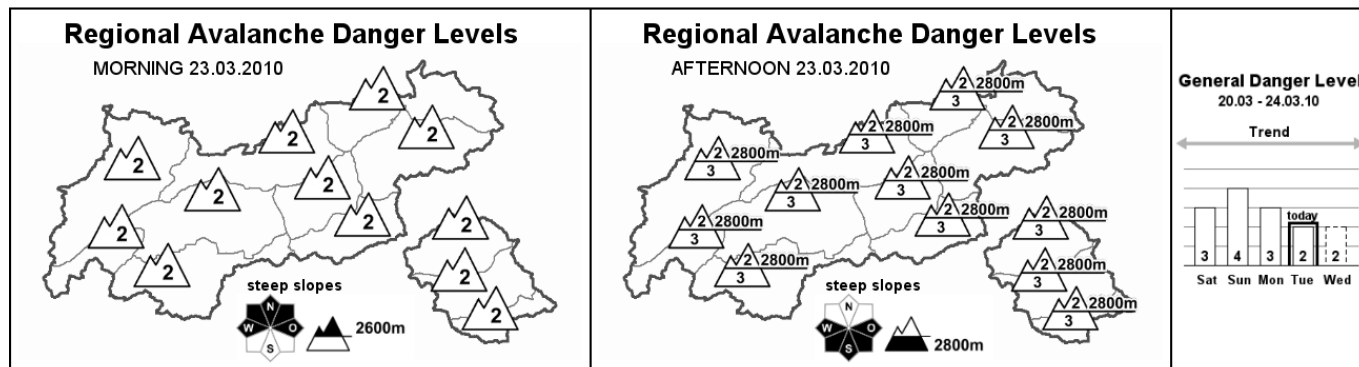


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 23.03.2010, at 07:30



Avalanche danger rising over the course of the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is increasingly subject to a daytime cycle. During the early morning hours the danger level is generally moderate. Over the course of the morning, the snowpack will rapidly lose its firmness, which increases the avalanche danger significantly. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep, east to south to west facing slopes. On sunny slopes more than anywhere else, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected below about 2800 m; on shady slopes the upper border line is a few hundred meters lower. From starting zones which have not yet discharged, avalanches can attain large size, thereby endangering exposed transportation routes. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours should be brought to a close early in the day, since conditions are generally unfavourable during the afternoon.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack on sunny, steep slopes below about 2400 m is thoroughly wet; on shady slopes the surface is moist. Since it was cloudy last night, there was reduced outgoing radiation; thus, only a thin melt freeze crust was able to form, which will swiftly soften through today's solar radiation. The snowpack will then rapidly lose its firmness during the morning. Caution is ongoingly urged towards the weak fundament of the snowpack this winter, consisting largely of faceted, loosely packed snow crystals. Thus, large-surface avalanches are possible which can attain large size, despite the below average snow depths.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a high pressure system from the west will dominate, the low pressure system in the south will be swept away; moist air masses will be supplanted by dry air. As of tomorrow, Wednesday, a low pressure front from the Atlantic will begin its approach by creating a foehn-wind situation. Mountain weather today: sunny day in the mountains with little wind. After the cloudbanks withdraw, sunshine will prevail nearly everywhere, this afternoon might even be cloudless in some regions, making springtime conditions felt widespread. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Freezing level at 2400 m and rising. Light winds at all altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springlike conditions, with avalanche danger subject to a daytime warming cycle.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe