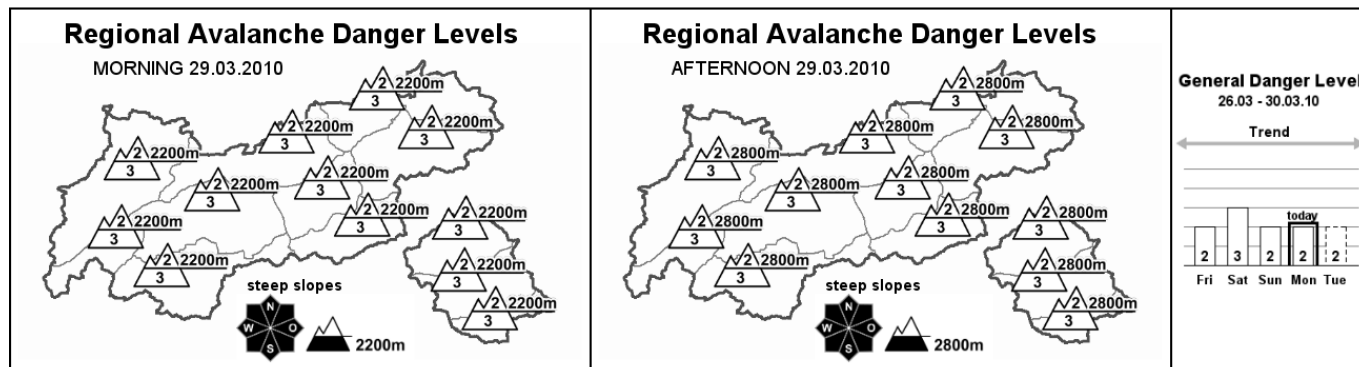


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 29.03.2010, at 07:30



Avalanche danger escalating with daytime warming

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is subject to a daytime warming cycle. Until late morning, moderate danger prevails widespread above 2200 m, below that altitude the danger is considerable from the early morning hours. This is due to the thinner melt freeze crust on the snow surface and the generally wet and trigger sensitive snowpack which lies beneath it. As temperatures rise and weather conditions improve, the snowpack will moisten even at high altitudes and rapidly lose its firmness by midday at latest. The danger level will then increase to considerable up to 2800 m. In western regions with lots of new fallen snow, particularly in the Arlberg region, increasingly frequent wet, loosely packed avalanches particularly in extremely steep, sun bathed terrain can be expected. Backcountry skiers and freeriders should bring their tours to an end as early in the day as possible. In high alpine regions (above 3000 m) in areas adjacent to ridge lines, caution is urged towards small snowdrift accumulations which have recently formed. Elsewhere, unfrequented slopes in NW to N to NE exposition above 2400 m require special caution: in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, isolated slab avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Over the course of the day, the likelihood of avalanches being triggered by minimum additional loading will increase in all expositions.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in the furthestmost western regions, there has been up to 20 cm of snowfall. In the remaining parts of North Tyrol, there was generally maximum 5 cm. In general, the snow quality is currently poor, particularly at low and intermediate altitudes. With increasing altitude, a melt freeze crust becomes more prevalent on the surface, which has been covered and concealed by the new fallen snow of recent days. Beneath the crust on sun bathed slopes up to 3000 m, the snowpack is often moist or wet. On shady slopes, there are still deeply embedded layers of depth hoar which could serve as bed surfaces for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Diffuse light to begin with, due to heavy cloud cover, higher summits are shrouded in fog. Over the course of the day, the clouds will disperse somewhat and visibility improve. In addition, temperatures will rise slightly, freezing level this afternoon will be 2400 m. In the Southern Alps, pleasant conditions to begin with, turning overcast this afternoon, accompanied by the first showers. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Light to moderate southerly to southwesterly winds; this afternoon winds will increase in velocity, particularly in foehn exposed regions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe