

Avalanche News

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 25.10.2010, at 15:00



Caution urged towards full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

Over the next few days, for a short period, special caution is urged towards the potential dangers of full depth wet snowslides. These are especially likely on very steep, smooth slopes, particularly on slippery, grass-covered hillsides. In the regions with lots of fresh fallen snow, particularly in the Zillertal Alps, the southern Stubai Alps and southern East Tyrol, these avalanches increasingly frequently can reach as far down as hiking trails and forest roads. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, in very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, fresh snowdrift accumulations have formed along the Main Alpine Ridge as a result of the northerly winds, and can be triggered by skiers and freeriders. With a certain amount of alpine experience, however, such avalanche prone locations are easy to recognize and avoid.

SNOW LAYERING

The major component of the current snow layering is the new fallen snow, which can easily slide down across the smooth, steep slopes. The least favourable situations are thus those areas which have received the most snowfall. Most of the snow fell last night along the Zillertal Alps and the Stubai Alps, locally as much as 80 cm. In the remaining regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern East Tyrol, there was generally 50 cm of snowfall, elsewhere mostly 10 to 30 cm of fresh fallen snow. In high alpine regions there was generally a very irregularly distributed old snowpack previous to this snowfall, which presents a potential danger for triggering fresh snowdrift accumulations only in certain small sized areas.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a low pressure zone over Genoa shoved humid air masses into Tirol on Monday. The high altitude airstream is now shifting to northwesterly. On Tuesday, high pressure influence will set in from the west. The forecast for coming days: on Wednesday, high altitude, somewhat dense cloudbanks will traverse the land, but conditions are expected to remain dry. On Thursday and Friday, it will be quite sunny and only intermittent clouds will cover the sky, accompanied by rising temperatures. Possible early morning fog will disperse by midday, in general. On the weekend, it now appears that strong foehn winds can be expected.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Following a short period of intense snowslide activity, the avalanche hazards will rapidly subside over the coming days. The next avalanche bulletin will be published whenever the dangers become acute.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe