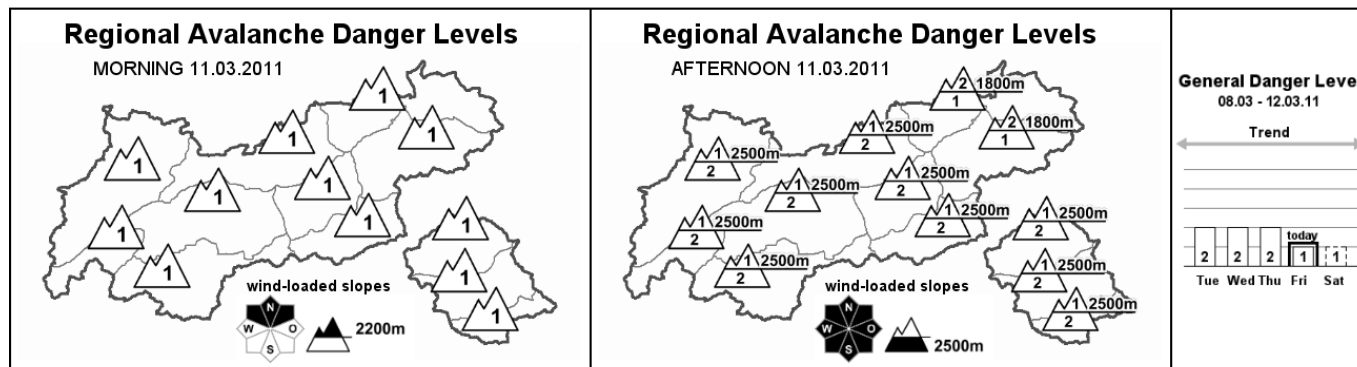


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 11.03.2011, at 07:30



Spring-like conditions accompanied by daytime rise in danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is increasingly subject to a daytime warming cycle. During the morning hours, the danger is low in general, then rises to moderate in the afternoon below about 2500 m. Backcountry skiers and freeriders are urged towards caution particularly between about 2200 and 2500 m on extremely steep, shady slopes, where there are isolated, relatively small sized, old snowdrift masses which can be triggered primarily by large additional loading. Furthermore, the snowpack will again relinquish its firmness over the course of the day. On intensely sun-drenched, extremely steep slopes, isolated wet snowslides and small wet avalanches can be triggered late this afternoon, particularly below 2500 m. As of that time, it is highly likely that backcountry skiers will trigger wet, loose avalanches – on west facing slopes, even isolated slab avalanches.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is generally stable, at least throughout the morning, amidst small, hazardous “pockets” on shady slopes between 2200 and 2500 in particular, where a loosely packed old snow fundament could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. This is also the case on west and east facing slopes, frequently near broad ridges. During the predominantly clear night at low and intermediate altitudes, where there is still snow, and on very steep south facing slopes up to nearly 3000 m, there is a crust which is often capable of bearing loads, which subsequently softens up over the course of the day. Outstanding firn snow is expected by midday today. In high alpine regions, wind crusts are now quite prevalent, and on shady, wind protected slopes even powder snow. In shady, high alpine regions near ridge lines, there is now some surface hoar.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the fringes of a high pressure system extend from the Mediterranean to the Alps, bringing mild and sunny conditions to Tyrol. On the weekend, the air current will shift to southwesterly, giving rise to foehn wind in North Tyrol and barrier clouds on the southern flank of the Alps which will lead to precipitation. Mountain weather today: excellent visibility and fabulous sunshine are the hallmarks of the day on both flanks of the Main Alpine Ridge. Some cloudbanks at 2000 to 2500 m around the Kaiser range and the Steinberge will soon be dispersed by the sun. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 to plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 5 degrees. Moderate westerly wind; along the Northern Alps, winds will be stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing favourable conditions, subject to daytime escalation of danger

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe