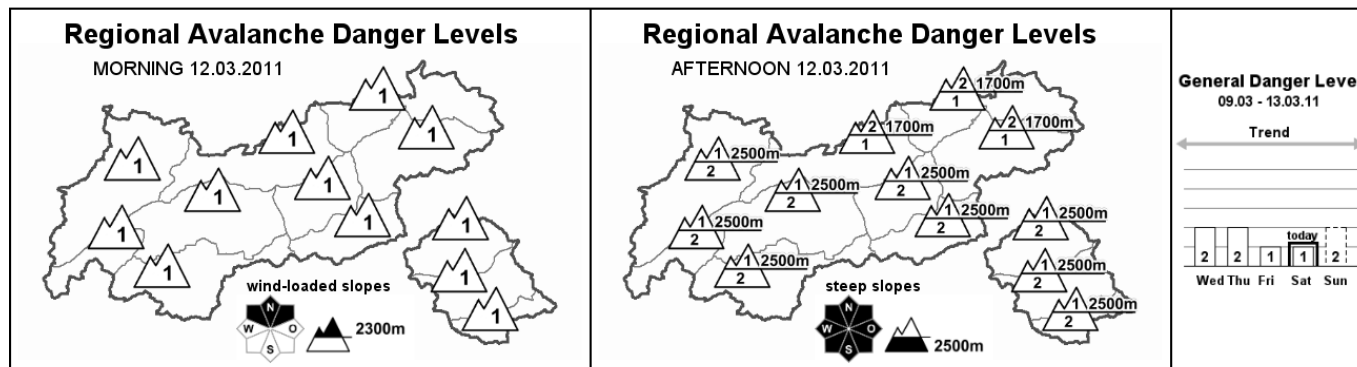


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 12.03.2011, at 07:30



Classic springtime situation with favourable conditions this morning, slight daytime rise in danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is contingent on the daytime warming cycle. This morning, generally favourable backcountry touring conditions prevail, with low avalanche danger. This afternoon, the peril below about 2500 m will rise to moderate. On heavily sun-exposed, wind-protected slopes, the snowpack will increasingly lose its firmness. On very steep slopes, ski tourers can later trigger wet sluffs, in some cases even small to medium sized avalanches. Naturally triggered avalanches will be the exception; if at all, then in late morning in steep, west facing terrain at altitudes around 2400 m. Caution is also urged towards steep, seldom frequented terrain, especially between 2300 and 2500 m, where older snowdrift accumulations can be released and attain the size of small to medium avalanches.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is generally stable this morning. Potential weak points are rare, occurring usually in shady terrain above about 2300 m in the form of faceted snow layers; near broad ridges in the form of depth hoar. Older snowdrift masses are too unbonded to transfer their tensions, but in isolated cases it is possible. A melt freeze crust generally capable of bearing loads on sunny slopes will bring about firm snow over the course of the day. If ski descents are launched early enough, conditions promise to be superb. Powder exists only in wind protected, shady terrain at higher altitude; in high alpine regions, wind crusts have often formed.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: at the forefront of a low pressure system near the British Isles, a southwesterly air current is forming over the Alps which will bring foehn wind conditions to North Tyrol over the weekend. On the southern flank of the Alps, barrier clouds will persist through Sunday, followed by precipitation. Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps, southerly foehn wind, sunshine and good visibility, amidst high altitude clouds. South of the Main Alpine Ridge, increasingly cloudy, summits often veiled, but no precipitation as yet. Partly sunny in northern East Tyrol as well. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. In foehn areas and exposed ridgeline areas, strong, to some extent stormy southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In high alpine ridgeline areas, small, trigger sensitive snowdrift masses will form tomorrow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe