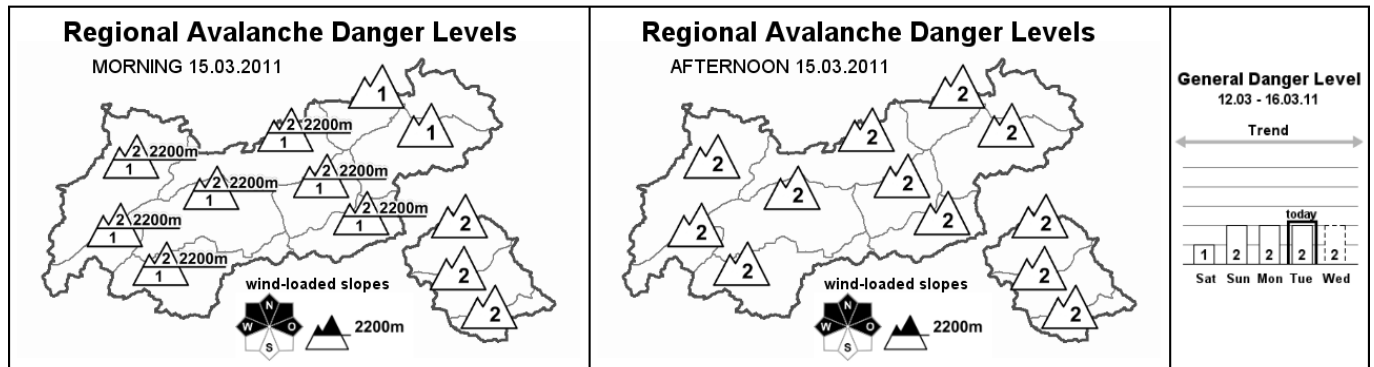


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 15.03.2011, at 07:30



Daytime rise of avalanche danger - Beware snowdrift in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in North Tyrol is subject to a daytime warming cycle today. During the morning hours, the danger level below about 2200 m is low widespread. As of late morning, the danger level will rise slightly, reaching the level "moderate". Above approximately 2200 m and in East Tyrol, the danger level is moderate in general. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations from the recent foehn period. The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes above 2200 m in western to northern to eastern exposition. Particularly the transition areas from shallow to deep snow should be assessed with great care, since avalanches can be triggered with relative ease there. Below about 2600 m, the danger of naturally triggered moist sluffs and wet avalanches will escalate slightly over the course of the day.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night in North Tyrol it was only slightly overcast, permitting the snowpack to consolidate somewhat as far as intermediate altitudes. In East Tyrol it was overcast, which impeded any effective outgoing radiation, making it impossible for the snowpack surface to solidify. In high alpine regions, snowdrift accumulations from this last weekend have been deposited on top of a loose old snowpack surface in many places, making them quite trigger sensitive. Elsewhere, the snowpack surface is heavily influenced by winds: windblown surfaces often alternate with heavily drifted areas.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a low pressure system over the Iberian peninsula is moving from Portugal towards the Balearic Islands, which will intensify the opposition of pressures in the Alps, making the southerly air current even stronger. The low will move eastwards on Thursday, which will force the precipitation to shift from southern to northern regions. Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps and in the mountain ranges surrounding the Inn Valley, quite sunny, good visibility but worsening this afternoon due to barrier clouds on the southern flank of the Alps drifting northwards. In the Southern Alps, often foggy, with anticipation of some snowfall this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Brisk to strong southerly to southeasterly winds at high altitudes, in foehn exposed regions the winds will attain storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Escalating avalanche danger in East Tyrol

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe