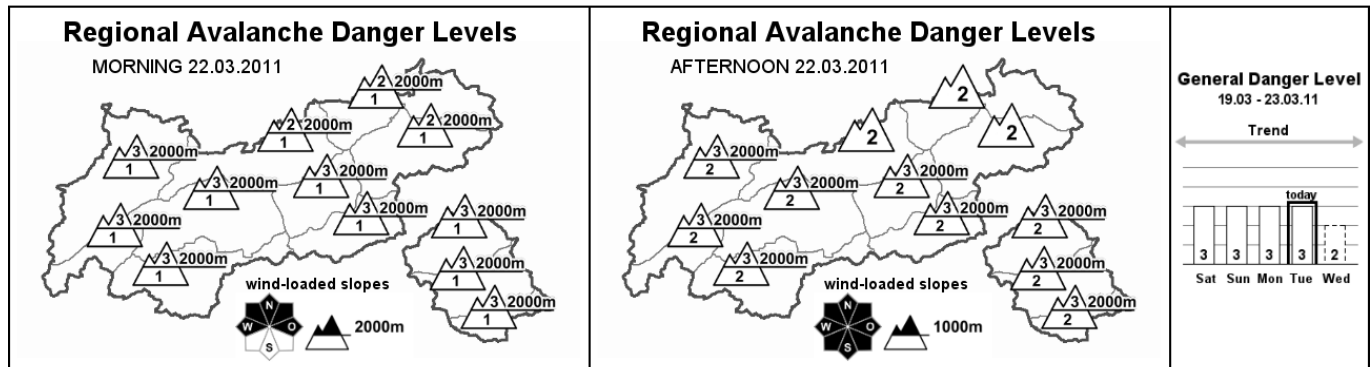


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 22.03.2011, at 07:30



### Increasing caution required on steep, shady slopes - Beware daytime warming cycle

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is receding only incrementally and remains contingent on altitude and the daytime warming cycle. Above approximately 2000 m, considerable danger prevails, except in the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps; below that altitude, the danger is low. As of midday, the general level rises to moderate, as the snowpack below 2000 m becomes thoroughly wet. The major peril is to be found on very steep, north facing slopes between 2200 and 2800 m which have been largely unfrequented thus far this winter: slab avalanches can be triggered there even by minimum additional loading. The peril stems from the snowdrift accumulations of last week. Due to the loosely packed powdery snowpack surface, such hazardous zones are often difficult to recognize. The likelihood of triggering slab avalanches on northwest to west to south facing slopes as well as on northeast to east to south facing slopes is steadily diminishing. On west and east facing slopes, avalanches can be triggered primarily through large additional loading, on south facing slopes they are generally unlikely. But freshly formed snowdrift masses from the easterly wind can be triggered in areas adjacent to ridge lines. Over the course of the day, the danger of moist sluffs and generally small sized moist snow avalanches will rise on very steep and extremely steep slopes.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack, which on Friday was thoroughly wet up to about 1800 m, was able to consolidate well last night, beneath clear, cold skies, and is generally capable of bearing loads. With ascending altitude, the sunny, steep slopes have now formed a brittle melt-freeze crust, whereas in other expositions there is powder snow. At high altitudes, the wind influence becomes more noticeable, the wind crusts are generally brittle. The most prevalent weak layer is to be found on north facing slopes above 2000 m, particularly between 2200 and 2800 m: a faceted, loosely packed layer inside the old snowpack. Snow examinations have shown that the bonding to the new fallen snow lying on top of it is usually inadequate. An additional potential bed surface for avalanches is the cold, loose, freshly formed snowdrift lying atop the new fallen snow in high alpine areas near ridge lines, usually on northwest to west to southwest facing steep slopes.

#### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: lying on the southern rim of a high pressure system, centered over the British Isles to Germany, Tyrol is in an easterly air current. Between Wednesday and Friday, tranquil conditions and higher temperatures will prevail. On the weekend, variable conditions from the west, and somewhat cooler. Mountain weather today: sunny and stable weather, accompanied by high altitude, wispy cloud which will not impede visibility. The easterly wind is still with us, particularly in the Lower Inn Valley and in East Tyrol. The freezing level will climb to over 2000 m today. Temperature at 2000 m: maximum plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: maximum minus 3 degrees. Moderate, in some regions brisk, easterly to northeasterly winds.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is slowly subsiding.

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