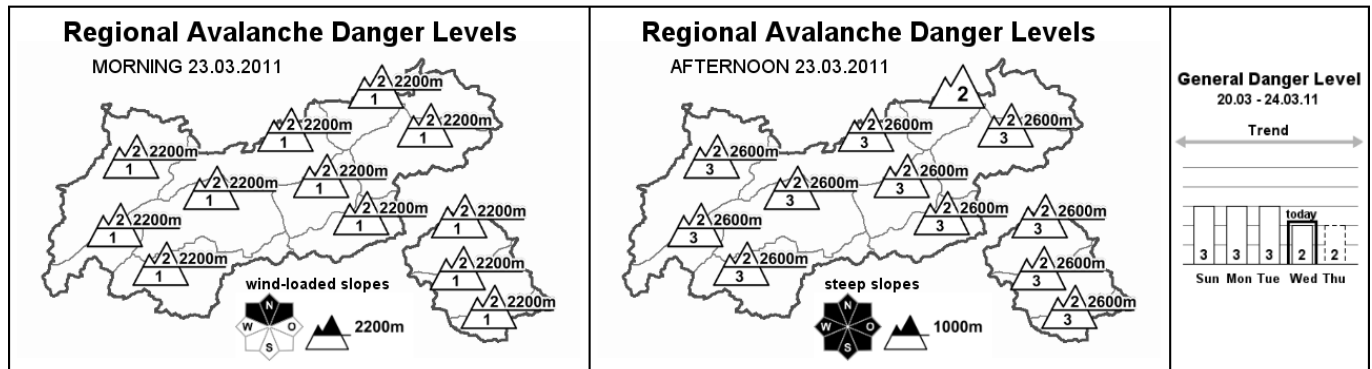


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 23.03.2011, at 07:30



Springtime conditions, and significantly rising danger during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

Classic springtime conditions prevail, including a quite marked escalation in avalanche danger as of midday. During the morning above 2000 m, the danger level is moderate, below that altitude it is low. Avalanche prone locations are to be found increasingly on north facing slopes between about 2200 m and 2800 m, particularly in unfrequented, very steep terrain. Dry slab avalanches of medium size can be triggered there even by minimum additional loading in isolated cases. On very steep, west and east facing slopes, there are also hazardous zones at these altitudes. During the morning, large additional loading is needed to release an avalanche, during the afternoon only minimum additional loading is necessary, since by that time the snowpack has lost its firmness. In general the danger is considerable in the afternoon below about 2600 m. Avalanche prone locations are then found on sunny slopes: in extremely steep terrain, particularly on east and west facing slopes, increasingly frequent wet avalanches, in isolated cases even slab avalanches, can be naturally triggered. Below 1800 m, the peril remains low, since the snow depths are so reduced.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack became increasingly moist over the course of the day yesterday, in places it was thoroughly wet. This was the case at low and intermediate altitudes in all expositions, in high alpine regions on sunny slopes. During the night, the snowpack cooled, thus forming a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads. Ski descents made early enough in the day today will enjoy perfect firm snow. But the daytime warming cycle will again bring about a great loss in the snowpack's firmness as of midday. Weak layers inside the snowpack can be found on west to north to east facing slopes: loose, faceted crystals. Last week's new fallen snow is inadequately bonded with these crystals, particularly between 2200 and 2800 m. In high alpine regions, the snowpack has been heavily impacted by winds.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high pressure system, extending from England over the Alps to the Black Sea, prevails and will dominate the weather in Tyrol until Saturday. Mountain weather today: sunshine galore, mild temperatures, outstanding visibility. The freezing level will ascend to 2400 m over the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 degrees. Moderate easterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springtime conditions will continue, so will the daytime escalation of danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe