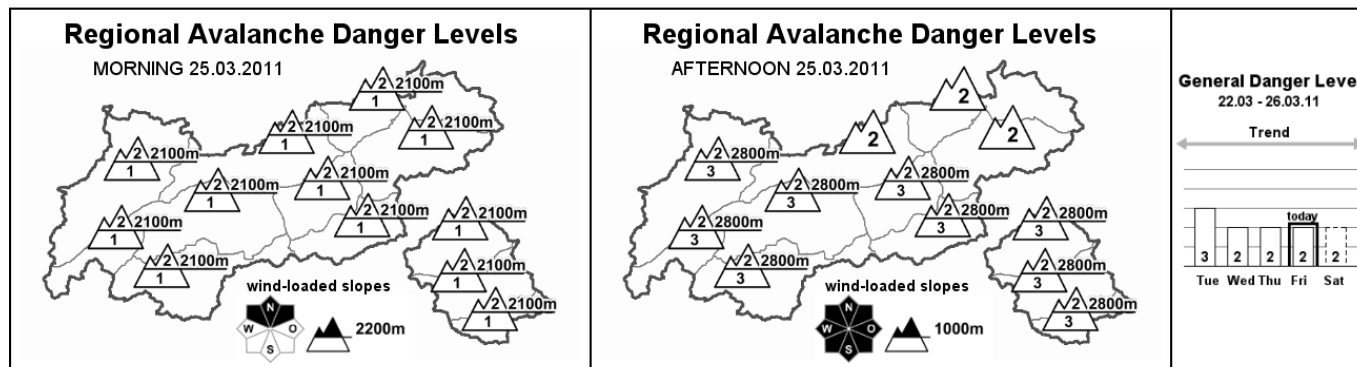


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 25.03.2011, at 07:30



Beware cycle of daytime warming, bringing heightened danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude and time of day. During the morning, quite favourable touring conditions prevail. The danger above approximately 2100 m is moderate, below it, low. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on very steep, shady, unfrequented slopes between about 2200 and 2800 m, where dry slab avalanches up to medium size can be triggered primarily through large, in isolated cases even through minimum additional loading. Also on west and east facing slopes above about 2300 m are isolated avalanche prone locations, especially near broad ridges, on steep, west facing slopes also near ridge lines, as was demonstrated yesterday by an avalanche in the Arlberg region. The likelihood of triggering an avalanche there this morning, compared to on shady slopes, is quite a bit lower, but will increase as of midday, when the snowpack becomes increasingly wet. In general, the avalanche danger will escalate over the course of the day and can, as of afternoon, at least below about 2800 m, rise to the level "considerable". On steep, sunny slopes, naturally triggered, wet, loosely packed snow avalanches are likely as of then; on west and east facing slopes slab avalanches can be expected; as can full depth wet snowslides down steep, grass-covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

Up to approximately 1500 m in all expositions, on sunny, very steep slopes up to at least 3000 m, the snowpack, which was thoroughly wet yesterday, was able to consolidate well during the night. The slopes are capable of bearing loads in more and more cases, especially below 2500 m. Weak spots inside the snowpack are the layers of depth hoar, particularly on west to north to east facing slopes between 2200 m and 2800 m. The snowdrift masses of last week are often poorly bonded to the old snowpack. These are usually small areas; large, cohesive weak layers are an exception. The snowpack surface is highly irregular and varied, in general: crusts capable of bearing loads, breakable crusts and powder are all right next to each other.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: the high pressure system is gradually dispersing, but will still dominate conditions in Tyrol today. From Scandinavia, instable and cooler air masses will be coming our way tomorrow, as of Sunday, conditions will become more instable. Mountain weather today: sunny mountain weather continues, the freezing level is at about 2500 m, high altitude cloudbanks lie far above the summits. This afternoon, some convective cloud could build up on the mountain flanks. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Light to moderate strength northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Daytime warming cycle will escalate danger over the day

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe