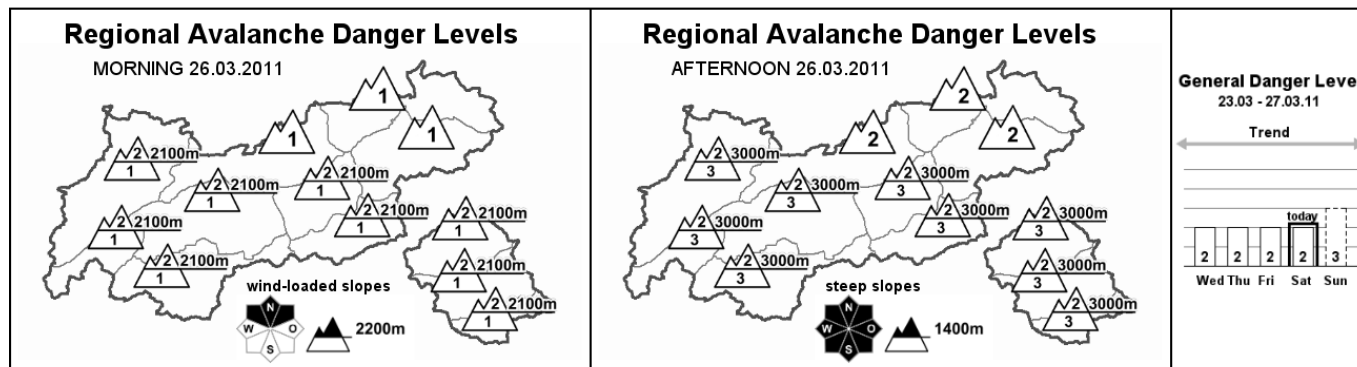


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 26.03.2011, at 07:30



Quite favourable conditions this morning, pronounced rise in danger during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger again today is subject to a daytime warming cycle and is dependent on altitude as well. During the morning, quite favourable conditions prevail for the most part. The danger above 2100 m is moderate, below that altitude it is low; in the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps, it is low at all altitudes. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes between about 2200 and 2800 m, particularly in unfrequented terrain, where primarily through large additional loading dry, slab avalanches attaining medium size can be triggered. In high alpine regions, hazardous zones are still found in west to northwest and east to northeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines. The avalanche danger is expected to rapidly increase today, due to the intensive and increasingly diffuse solar radiation: by late morning below 3000 m, Level 3 will be reached. As of then on very steep and extremely steep, sunny slopes, isolated wet avalanches - on east and west facing slopes also slab avalanches - are likely. On steep, grass covered slopes, in addition, full depth snowslides can be expected. The likelihood of avalanches being triggered by backcountry skiers and freeriders will as of then also be heightened. For that reason, tours should be brought to an end early in the day.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack consolidated well last night. Thus, at low altitudes wherever there is still snow and on steep, sunny slopes up to at least 2500 m, there is a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads through the early morning hours. On shady slopes, there is still powder, with ascending altitude breakable crusts dominate. A layer of depth hoar, particularly on northwest to north to northeast facing slopes between 2200 and 2800 m is a potential bed surface for avalanches; the same applies, although more seldom, to west to northwest and east to northeast facing slopes. The bonding of the snowpack to the snowdrift masses which formed a week ago is inadequate in many places.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a cold front is approaching from the north which will bring moisture and instable conditions over the weekend. On Monday, temperatures will drop noticeably. As of Tuesday, an intermediate high and rising temperatures will reassume dominance. Mountain weather today: sunny skies, however quite windy in the Northern Alps. As of midday at latest, convective cloud build-up will be noticed, impeding the visibility somewhat during the afternoon. From the Rofan eastwards and in the Kitzbühel Alps, scattered local showers are possible in the latter part of the day. Isolated showers are also possible in the Dolomites, Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Brisk westerly winds in the Northern Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The snowpack will not consolidate well tonight, due to the forecast cloudy skies.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe