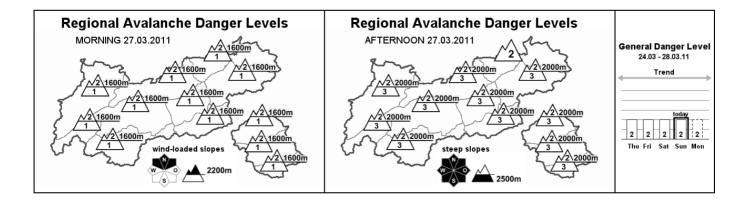
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Sunday, 27.03.2011, at 07:30





Caution on very steep, shady slopes above 2200 m - Daytime rise in avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude and will escalate over the course of the day. Above about 1600 m, moderate danger prevails widespread, below that altitude the danger is low, since there is so little snow. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing terrain between about 2200 and 2800 m, especially on slopes unfrequented this winter: primarily through large additional loading, slab avalanches of medium size can be triggered there. In addition, in high alpine areas near ridge lines, small sized, freshly formed snowdrift masses require special caution. The forecast showers which will fall as rain up to about 2000 m will, due to the daytime warming cycle, making the snowpack moist or wet. Depending on the intensity of the rain, the danger below 2000 m could rise to considerable. Naturally triggered, generally small sized, wet avalanches would then be likely. Equally likely this afternoon are avalanches triggered by skiers and freeriders.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack became quite moist yesterday, at low altitudes it was thoroughly wet. In southern regions, there was little cloud cover during the night, so a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads was able to form; further to the north, the crust is predominantly thin and the snowpack beneath it moist or wet. Rainfall and the daytime warming cycle will lead to a great loss in snowpack firmness over the course of the day today, particularly below 2000 m. Weak layers inside the snowpack: on northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above 2200, there is a layer of depth hoar. On west and east facing slopes, this layer occurs more seldom, but is frequent in zones near broad ridges with shallow snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a cold front from the north has reached the northern flank of the Alps, bringing showers. In addition, a small low pressure system is moving from the Bay of Biscay towards France, continuing tomorrow towards Genoa. Thus, the high altitude air current will temporarily shift to southwesterly and bring moistness from the south as well. Mountain weather today: instable conditions in the mountains. Particularly the Northern Alps will receive a few showers this morning, snowfall level at 1700 m. During the day, conditions will quiet somewhat, a bit of sunshine is likely, but return to cloudiness and local showers this afternoon, including on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Light to moderate southwesterly winds, in foehn exposed areas the winds will be brisker.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe





