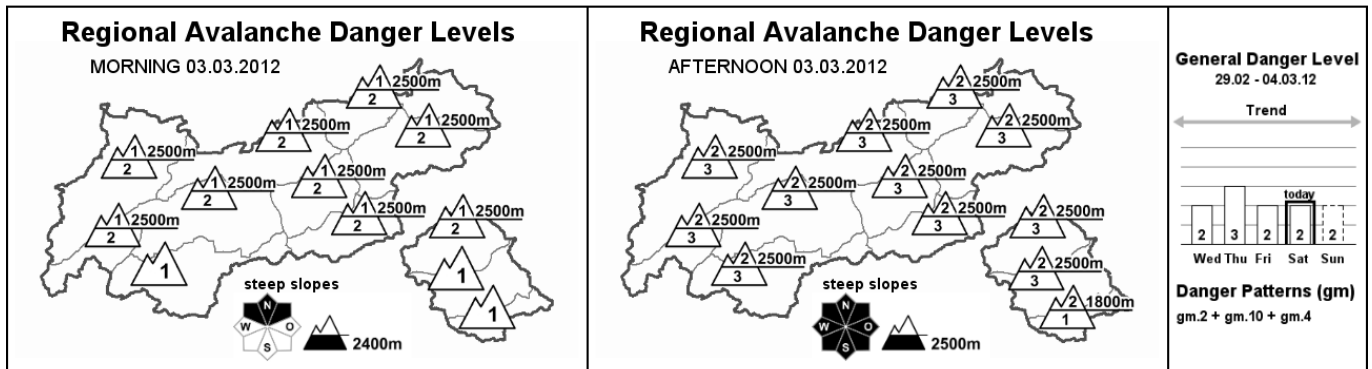


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 03.03.2012, at 07:30



Daytime rise in danger! Beware full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is again subject to a daytime warming cycle. The danger level in central East Tirol, the East Tirolean Dolomites and the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, i.e. where there is either less snow or are fewer grassy slopes, will be low until the late morning hours. Elsewhere, the danger level above approximately 2500 m is low; below that altitude the danger level is moderate, due to the increased peril of full depth snowslides. The danger will increase again today as the snowpack becomes more and more moist; as of late morning, it will be considerable below about 2500 m; above that altitude, it will be moderate. Frequent full depth snowslides are again expected on steep, grassy slopes. Due to the extraordinary snow depths in some places, these avalanches can even reach large size. In addition, wet, loosely packed avalanches can be expected from craggy, sunny terrain as of midday. Dry slab avalanches are a hazard only in a narrow altitude belt between about 2200 and 2400 m on very steep, shady slopes, where slab avalanches can be triggered primarily by large additional loading. The motto of today's backcountry tours is: start early, go high up, and keep a close eye on the glide cracks.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack consolidated well during the clear night. A melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads formed in many places. At lower altitudes, near the treeline and on shady slopes below about 2600 m, the crust is usually breakable. Powder snow can generally still be found only in high alpine shady terrain. Weak layers inside the snowpack are increasingly well bonded to one another. Slab avalanches are most likely on steep, shady slopes between about 2200 and 2400 m in North Tirol from two faceted layers. The decisive factor today will again be the moistening snowpack, which will cause a massive loss of firmness during the course of the day.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A high pressure system centered above Scandinavia still dominates Tirol's weather. On Sunday, a weak perturbation will traverse the land, followed by an additional, much more powerful cold front on Monday. Mountain weather today: Another sunny day in the mountains awaits. It will not be quite as mild as yesterday, but still very warm for this juncture of the season, with the midday freezing level at about 2500 m, and very little wind. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Weak northwesterly to northerly winds; towards the east, winds will be of moderate velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The major danger stems from full depth snowslides

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe