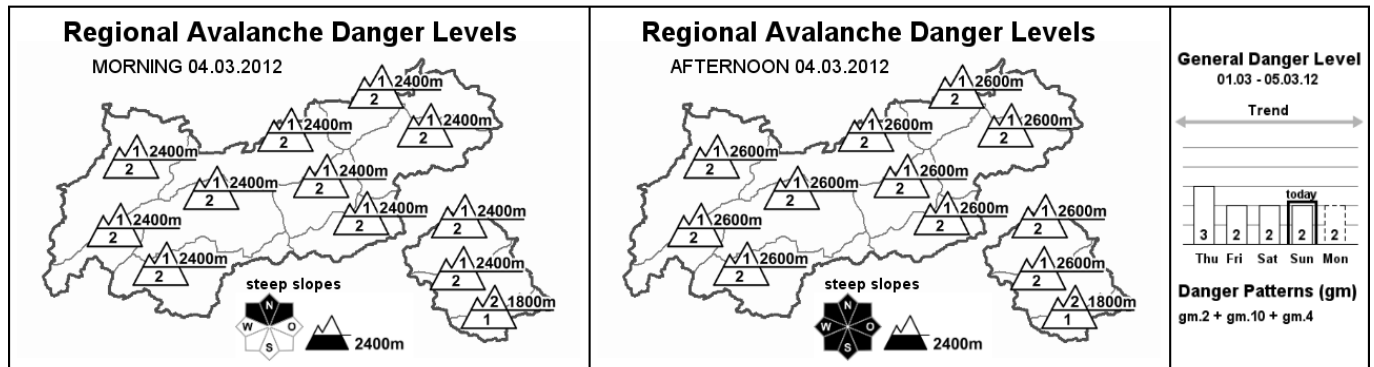


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 04.03.2012, at 07:30



Caution urged towards full depth snowslides

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude and is expected to increase somewhat at low and intermediate altitudes over the course of the day. Above approximately 2400 m, this afternoon above approximately 2600 m, the danger level will be low; beneath that altitude it will be moderate. In southern East Tirol the danger level will be generally low. Due to the diffuse solar radiation anticipated in some regions, the generally thin melt-freeze crust will be softened, causing the avalanche danger to increase. Backcountry skiers and freeriders can then trigger moist, loosely-packed snow avalanches in extremely steep terrain; and in areas with shallow snow which have been exposed to much wind influence through the winter, even slab avalanches can be triggered in isolated cases. The major danger, however, stems from full depth snowslides. They occur less frequently this week, but at the same time have become less predictable; they can release at any and all times. Areas below glide cracks in the snowpack should be avoided entirely! There is still a danger of dry, slab avalanches in a narrow altitude belt between about 2200 and 2400 m, where in steep terrain such avalanches can be triggered, generally by large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack didn't consolidate as well last night as in recent days. Thus, at low and intermediate altitudes the melt freeze crust which formed is very thin. Beneath it, the snowpack is moist or thoroughly wet. Due to the dense cloud cover and reduced solar radiation, the snowpack will forfeit some of its firmness, but to a lesser extent. Isolated weak layers for dry, slab avalanches are still found between about 2200 and 2400 m on shady slopes in the form of faceted layers which formed either during the mid-February cold wave or at the beginning of this last week.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The high pressure system which has dominated Tirol's weather in recent days has moved north and been replaced by a weak perturbation. Simultaneously, a low is forming over the North Sea whose cold front will bring precipitation and markedly lower temperatures to Tirol on Monday. Mountain weather today: cloudbanks are moving in, some of them dense. But apart from the highest summits, most are free of cloud and the visibility quite acceptable. It is cooler than yesterday, the freezing level will be at 1800 to 2200 m. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Light winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Cooler temperatures and less wind will improve the avalanche situation in general

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe