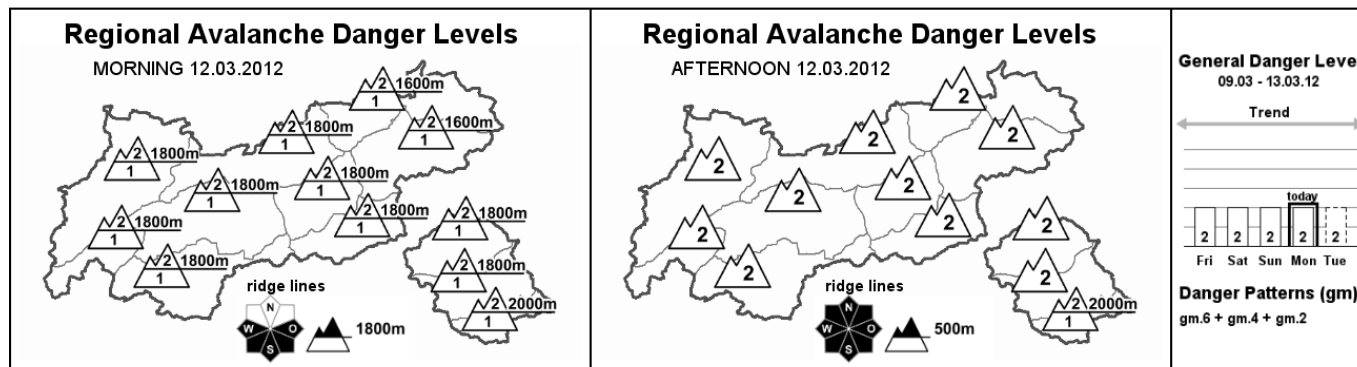


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 12.03.2012, at 07:30



Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude and time of day. Above the treeline, moderate danger prevails, below that altitude the danger level is low. During the course of the day, the danger level increases to moderate as the snowpack becomes more moist; in southern East Tirol, the danger level remains low, due to the dearth of snow. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in freshly formed, usually small sized snowdrift accumulations above the treeline. These drifted snow masses occur most frequently in steep ridgeline areas of western to northern to eastern aspects as well as in gullies and bowls. With some experience in evaluating avalanche dangers, such trigger sensitive spots are easily recognized; caution is necessary because they can be triggered by minimum additional loading at high altitude. The frequency of such danger zones tends to increase with ascending altitude. In addition, isolated full depth snowslides can release on steep, grassy slopes. On sunny, craggy slopes, furthermore, loosely packed avalanches are expected.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been a small amount of snowfall widespread. In addition, strong northerly winds were blowing at high altitudes which transported great amounts of the fresh fallen snow. Excluding on high altitude, shady slopes, the drifted snow accumulations have been deposited widespread on top of a melt freeze crust which at least above approximately 1600 m is capable of bearing loads. The loosely packed, cold and in isolated cases faceted new fallen snow on top of this melt freeze crust forms a potential bed surface for these drifted snow masses. In high alpine regions, in addition, a fundament of depth hoar from early winter is evident on steep, shady slopes which, however, is not expected to trigger.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A perturbation is slowly withdrawing, a high pressure system is regaining the upper hand today in the Upper Inn Valley and as of Tuesday throughout Tirol. The northerly foehn wind in East Tirol is weakening. The high will bring pleasant, springtime conditions for several days. Mountain weather today: in the Upper Inn Valley, sunshine and good visibility will soon prevail; in western South Tirol, extensive lee cloudbanks; from the Gerlos region to the Loferer Steinberge, the fog will persist, accompanied by light snowfall, with the snowfall level at 800 to 1300 m. Along and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, strong northerly winds will be blowing; in the Dolomites and the mountains of East Tirol beyond the Tauern, it will be quite sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. To begin with, still strong northerly winds at high altitudes east of the Ziller Valley, later slackening off.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springtime conditions are increasing, bringing danger levels corresponding to the daytime warming cycle

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe