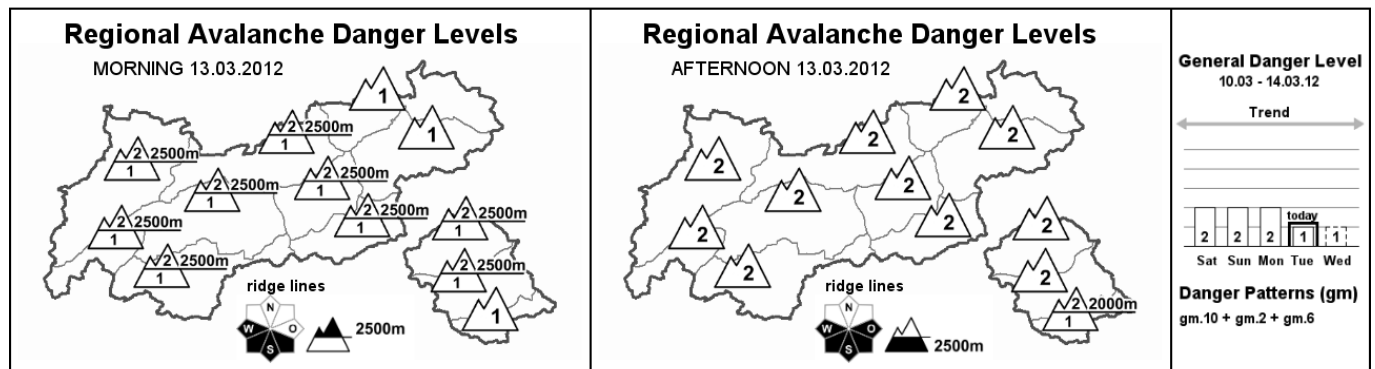


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 13.03.2012, at 07:30



Favourable conditions, danger corresponds to daytime warming cycle

AVALANCHE DANGER

Classic springtime conditions prevail. During the morning below about 2500 m, the danger level is generally low, above that altitude moderate. As of midday, as the snowpack becomes moist, the danger level rises to generally moderate. Caution is urged during the morning hours towards the small snowdrift masses in high alpine ridgeline areas and steep slopes. As of late morning, loosely packed avalanches can be triggered on steep, sunny slopes. On steep, grassy slopes, there is still danger of full depth snowslides, the imminent danger usually indicated by glide cracks in the snowpack. Thus the area below such cracks should be avoided altogether.

SNOW LAYERING

Strong northerly winds along the Main Alpine Ridge yesterday transported the snow at higher altitudes. The drifted masses were generally deposited atop a hard snowpack. They can still be released at the borderline zone between the loosely packed, cold new fallen snow and the wind-bonded snow. Elsewhere the old snowpack is generally solid and stable. Only in spots with shallow snow, especially shady areas above approximately 2500 m, are there isolated loosely packed layers with faceted crystals or depth hoar embedded in the snowpack. The lowermost layer of depth hoar on the glaciers from early winter is not likely to trigger, due to the extraordinary snowdepths and the hard snowpack. Since the air masses are extremely dry, the snowpack will become thoroughly wet only at lower altitudes, despite the high temperatures.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A high pressure system centered over western Europe will dominate our weather for the next few days, the temperatures rising a bit more each day. On the weekend, light foehn winds are possible. Mountain weather today: splendid weather for winter sports in most regions. Impaired visibility due to fog is possible this morning around and east of the Kitzbühel Alps, but it will improve significantly by this afternoon, ultimately bringing sunshine. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 to minus 2 degrees. Light northerly winds; at high altitudes, winds will be moderate; in the Tauern they will be strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing springtime conditions. Starting out early rewards skiers and freeriders with terrific firm snow on sunny slopes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe