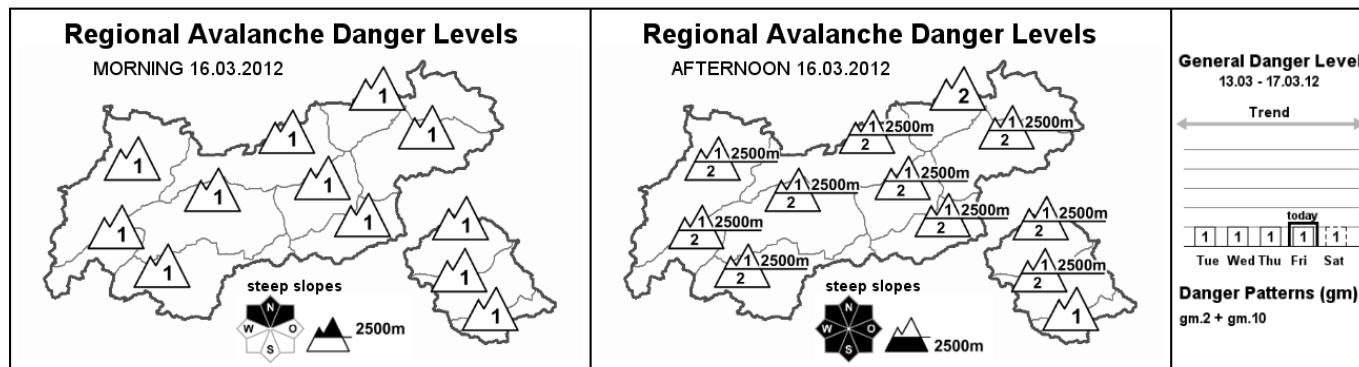


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 16.03.2012, at 07:30



Unchanged favourable conditions - Rising avalanche danger during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

Favourable conditions continue to reign, although again today, the avalanche danger level will increase somewhat. In the morning, the danger level is low overall, as of midday it rises to moderate below about 2500 m. Caution should be exercised particularly towards the increasingly wet snowpack surface, which will strike east facing slopes first, then south and west facing slopes a bit later. Especially below about 2500 m on extremely steep, sun-drenched slopes, wet sluffs can be released this afternoon. In addition, particularly in eastern to southern to western aspects below about 2400 m, a greater likelihood of full depth snowslides demands added caution; such slides will be seldom, but can attain larger size due to the extraordinary snow depths. Thus, our tip remains the same: avoid areas below glide cracks in the snowpack.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack again consolidated well during the clear night and is solid and stable, all in all. On sunny, very steep slopes there is now a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads widespread, which however will soften up during the day. Descents launched early enough will be rewarded with magnificent firm snow. Due to the dry air, this pleasure will be possible at high altitudes even until early afternoon. On very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2200 m, there is still powder snow. Weak layers are rare inside the snowpack; at most, on very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2500 m, where the snow is shallow, there is a layer of loosely packed, faceted crystals near the ground. The layer of depth hoar which formed in early winter on glaciers is not expected to release.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: tranquil high pressure influence on Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, a southwesterly air current will set in: in North Tyrol there will be foehn wind, in southern regions it will be overcast. On Monday, a cold front will bring rain from the northwest. Mountain weather today: sunshine all day long, accompanied by light winds and mild temperatures, with the freezing level climbing to over 3000 m this afternoon. Tonight will be clear, permitting the snowpack to cool off sufficiently. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: plus 2 degrees. Light winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Classic springtime conditions continue

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe