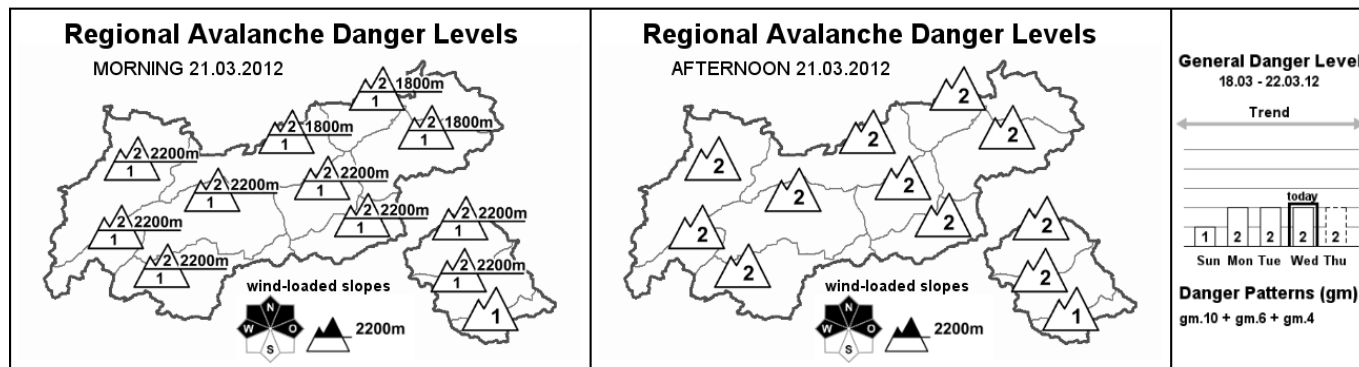


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 21.03.2012, at 07:30



Caution in high alpine areas: fresh snowdrift!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is moderate far and wide. The major peril stems from fresh snowdrift accumulations which formed yesterday as a result of the brisk to strong velocity southerly winds. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes above approximately 2200 m in western to northern to eastern aspects. Transition areas from shallow to deep snow should be evaluated with especially great care. Isolated snowdrift masses can be triggered as avalanches even by minimum additional loading. During the course of the day, the avalanche hazards will increase due to intensifying solar radiation. On sun-drenched slopes below about 2800 m, naturally triggered moist sluffs and loosely packed avalanches can be expected later on, in isolated cases also full depth snowslides are possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The southerly winds were stronger than anticipated yesterday, easily discernible by the mighty 'snow flags' unfurling above the ridges and summits. It brought about massive transport of the new fallen snow from the beginning of the week. Particularly in high alpine ridgeline areas, fresh snowdrift masses accumulated which are very prone to triggering. Newly fallen and drifted snow have for the most part been deposited on top of a superficial melt freeze crust. The old snowpack beneath it has consolidated well in general, it is solid and stable.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A high pressure system extends from France across the Alps to the Balkan peninsula, the air masses are generally dry. Only in the uppermost layers of the atmosphere is some moister air moving in from the south as a result of a high-low over the Iberian peninsula. Mountain weather today: a predominantly sunny day in the mountains, with high altitude clouds far above the summits. The fresh fallen snow from Monday is sparkling in the sunshine, but will soften rapidly due to the mild temperatures, the freezing level climbing to 2500 m by this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Light southerly winds, although in some regions winds will be moderate to brisk in strength

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springlike conditions, daytime rise in avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe