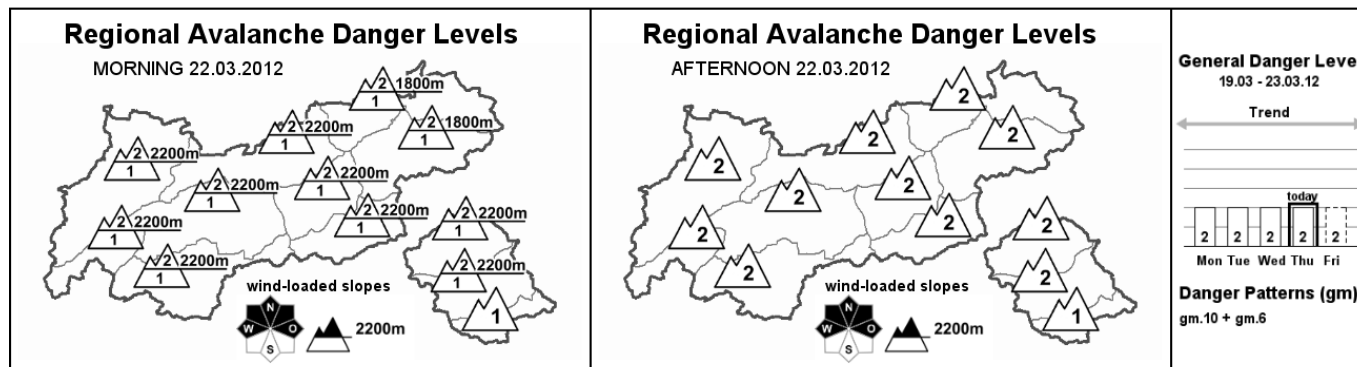


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 22.03.2012, at 07:30



Caution urged towards fresh, small snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tirol's backcountry touring regions, favourable conditions prevail widespread, amidst moderate avalanche danger. The major peril stems from freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes and in ridgeline areas above approximately 2200 m in western to northern to eastern aspects. Avalanches can in isolated cases be triggered from these drifted snow masses even by minimum additional loading. During the course of the day, the rising temperatures and intensifying solar radiation will bring about a slight escalation of avalanche danger. Later on, naturally triggered moist snowslides and loosely packed surface avalanches will be possible below about 2800 m; full depth snowslides will also be possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The new fallen snow from the beginning of the week has settled somewhat in the interim. However, the brisk southerly winds in high alpine regions on Tuesday in particular brought about small snowdrift accumulations and in the foehn exposed forest lanes more such accumulations are expected to form today. The old snowpack has consolidated well, it is solid and stable, by and large. Avalanche prone locations are most likely to be found where the snow is shallow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A high pressure system extending from the North Sea to the Balkan peninsula dominates Tirol's weather currently. Over the weekend this will weaken, the variability and tendency towards showers will increase, but the high will reassert its dominance next week again. Mountain weather today: superb weather conditions, splendid visibility and lots of sunshine. In some places, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads has again formed, particularly on south facing slopes. In view of the temperatures, firm snow may be available by midday today. The freezing level will be 2700 m and rising. On peaks especially exposed to foehn winds, e.g. Patscherkofel, the winds will be strong. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 degrees. Light to moderate southerly to southeasterly winds, winds will be intermittently stronger.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springlike conditions will continue, daytime rise in avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe