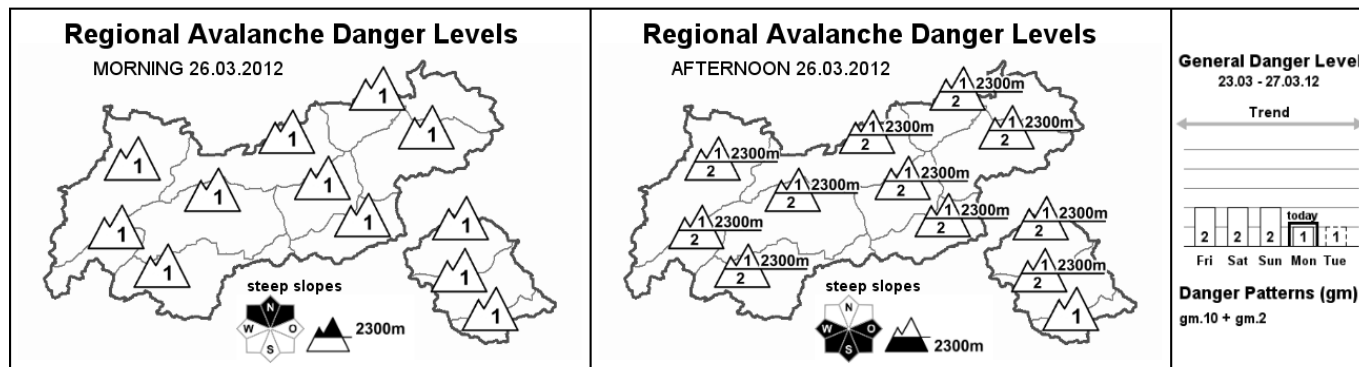


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 26.03.2012, at 07:30



Outstanding conditions for backcountry tours, slight daytime rise in avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Superb conditions prevail. The avalanche danger level is low during the morning, this afternoon it will increase to moderate below about 2300 m, as the snowpack becomes more moist through the day. As of then, backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger wet snowslides on extremely steep, sun-drenched slopes. Caution is also urged on steep, grassy slopes towards the danger of full depth snowslides. Areas beneath glide cracks should be avoided whenever possible. In isolated cases, skiers and freeriders can trigger dry, slab avalanches in extremely steep, shady terrain above approximately 2400 m which has been seldom used through the winter and where the snow is shallow.

SNOW LAYERING

All in all, the snowpack is favourably structured. Last night beneath crystal clear skies, it consolidated well. On sunny, steep slopes and at low altitudes, there is a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads which becomes wet during the course of the day, although due to the low humidity, the snowpack does not become thoroughly wet. This set of conditions may well bring about splendid firm snow by this afternoon. Weak layers inside the snowpack are generally lacking. Only in extremely steep, shady terrain above approximately 2400 m where the snow is shallow is there a layer of depth hoar near the ground which is potentially weak.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies in the field of a dominant high pressure system centered over the British Isles. The air is very dry and quite mild. Not until the latter part of the week will this high weaken noticeably. Mountain weather today: excellent mountain weather, with radiant sunshine, at most a few convective clouds over the Southern Alps, good visibility and pleasant temperatures. The freezing level at midday will be at about 2200 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Moderate northerly to northeasterly winds to start with, slackening off to light over the course of the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Highly favourable conditions continue

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe