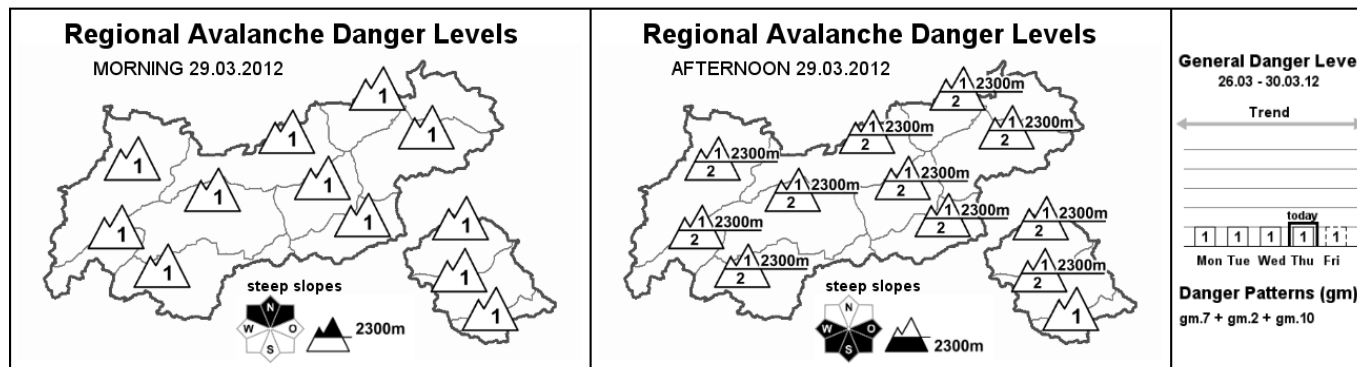


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 29.03.2012, at 07:30



Favourable conditions, daytime rise in avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Favourable conditions reign. The avalanche danger level is low during the morning, then rises to moderate below 2300 m during the afternoon. At low altitudes and on very steep, sunny slopes, backcountry skiers and freeriders can then, as the snowpack becomes more moist, trigger wet snowslides. In isolated cases as of then, small, wet, loosely packed avalanches can also be naturally triggered on extremely steep, sunny slopes below about 2300 m. Full depth snowslides continue to remain a hazard on steep, grassy slopes, even during the morning, although more likely in the afternoon. Areas below glide cracks in the snowpack should be avoided altogether. Caution is also still urged on extremely steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above approximately 2300 m, where slab avalanches can be triggered primarily by large additional loading in places where the snow is shallow and there has been little traffic this winter.

SNOW LAYERING

During a night of star-studded skies the snowpack again consolidated well, forming a crust which is generally capable of bearing loads. Only at low altitudes is the melt-freeze crust breakable in places. Beneath the crust, the snowpack at low altitudes, and on sunny slopes below about 2300 m, is generally moist or wet. Weak layers inside the snowpack are rare, at most on shady, steep slopes above approximately 2300 m on spots where the snow is shallow: near the ground there is a layer of depth hoar.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The high pressure system which has dominated weather for the last few days is being pushed westwards. A low pressure system dominates over eastern Europe. Tirol is wedged between the two, in a northwesterly air current. Tonight and on Saturday night, cold fronts will arrive. Mountain weather today: This morning there will still be sunshine, accompanied by intensifying wind strength. This afternoon, clouds will move in from the north and winds will be strong widespread. Tonight a cold front with snow showers and stormy winds will arrive, bringing maximum 5 to 10 cm of snowfall, most of it between the Karwendel and the Kitzbühel Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Strong northwesterly winds; along the Northern Alps and in the Tauern, winds will gradually attain storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

To start with, no significant change in avalanche danger, as temperatures drop and it snows. Caution urged towards small snowdrift masses in ridgeline areas.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe