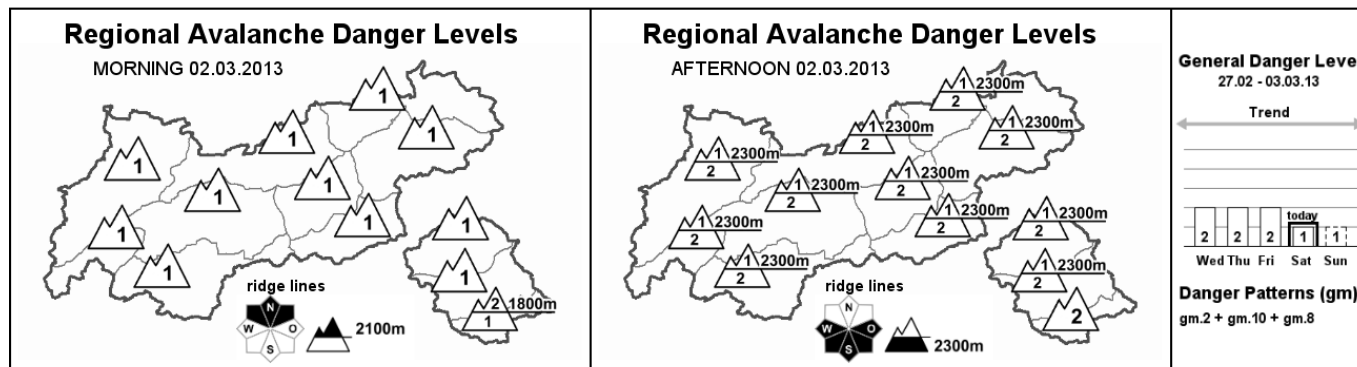


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 02.03.2013, at 07:30



Favourable conditions, slight daytime danger cycle, beware full depth snowslides

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the East Tirolean Dolomites the danger level is moderate above 1800 m, below that altitude low. Slab avalanches can release in very steep terrain on W-NW to N to E-NE facing slopes where the snow is shallow or near ridgelines and attain medium size. In remaining Tirol the danger level is generally low, but increases to moderate below about 2300 m over the course of the day, due to the wetness of the snowpack surface. In sunny, craggy terrain, loosely packed avalanches can release during the afternoon. Caution is also urged towards full depth snowslides. We advise avoiding areas below glide cracks in the snowpack surface

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is well structured in general, only in southern East Tirol is there a larger weak layer of faceted crystals and old crusts inside the snowpack which could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. Elsewhere on isolated shady slopes near ridgelines, the buried surface hoar is also a threat for slides. Depth hoar occurs only in small patches, is not currently a major threat. Since the air is so dry, the snowpack gets wet only slowly from solar radiation, thus there is melt-freeze in the early morning; on steep, sunny slopes above the fog and below 2000 m the crust is capable of bearing loads. At high altitudes the snowpack has been heavily influenced by winds. In wind protected, shady terrain there is still good powder in places.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Above 1500 m the conditions are superb, the sun is shining, the sky is cloudless and it is relatively mild. At intermediate altitudes towards the west and north the residual fog will persist until afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 9 to minus 5 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Weather in general: A high extends from the British Isles to the Alps, bringing mild air masses our way. At the same time, moist air masses from the northeast are pressing into the valleys at low altitudes. These air masses will become somewhat drier over the next few days. On Monday afternoon, the airstream will shift to southwesterly, ushering in a foehn phase.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable conditions will continue.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe