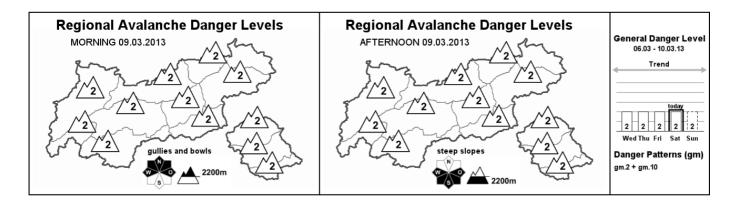
Avalanche Bulletin of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Saturday, 09.03.2013, at 07:30





Below 2000m, danger of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is moderate widespread, although the danger zones are doubly subdivided. On the one hand there are avalanche prone locations for slab avalanches in gullies and bowls above approximately 2200m, mainly in W to N to E aspects, where the small snowdrift accumulations are to some extent brittle and can be triggered by large additional loading. In this connection, the transition areas from deep to shallow snow must also be assessed with great care, as the frequency and spread of the danger zones tends to increase with ascending altitude. On the other hand, below about 2200 m the thoroughly wet snowpack swiftly loses its firmness over the course of the day; thus, as of late morning increasingly frequent naturally triggered wet avalanches and full depth snowslides are likely.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night in western regions of North Tirol there was a small amount of snowfall, below about 1500m it rained lightly. The snow cover, as a result of the mild temperatures and the lack of outgoing radiation during the night, is thoroughly wet up to about 2000m. Through daytime warming and intermittent solar radiation it will forfeit its firmness still further. In high alpine regions the snowdrift accumulations brought about by foehn winds during the week have consolidated somewhat with the snowpack surface. The proneness to triggering is still heightened on steep, shady slopes above about 2200m, where the drifted masses have been deposited on top of loose, light old snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure zone on the Atlantic coast is bringing a mild, weak westerly airstream to Tirol. It is embedded inside an additional low with its core over northern Europe and will soon supply cold air masses to western and central Europe. Mountain weather today: a gloomy day in the mountains, with only light winds but mostly shrouded peaks. Better conditions in the Lower Inn Valley, where there will be intermittent sunshine. Towards afternoon, the clouds in southern regions will become denser and snowfall will set in above 1500m in East Tirol in particular. Temperature at 2000m plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Light westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Continuing peril of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe

