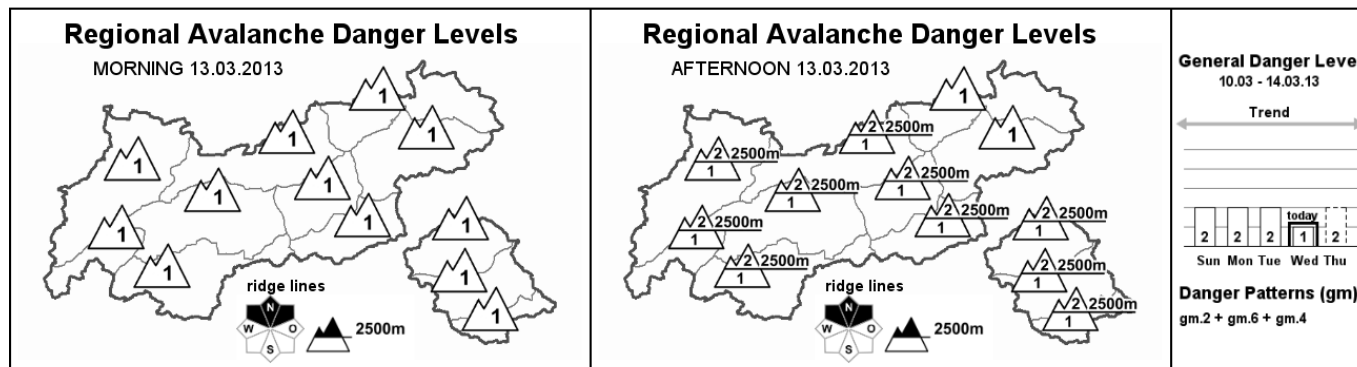


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 13.03.2013, at 07:30



Favourable situation, isolated full depth snowslides, drifted masses at high altitude

AVALANCHE DANGER

Low avalanche danger prevails in general, which at high altitude can rise to moderate over the course of the day. The major peril stems from isolated full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes, particularly below about 2400m in sunny terrain. The anticipated snowfall could lead to new snowdrift accumulations at high altitudes - small and shallow - which may be triggerable especially on W-NW to N to E-NE facing slopes, even by minimum additional loading. With experience in assessing avalanche hazards, these danger zones are easy to recognize.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night in Tirol there were isolated snow showers bringing up to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow, though many areas remained dry. Light winds prevail, only at high altitudes do they reach transport strength. The snowpack surface above about 2000m on W-NW to N to E-NE facing slopes is powdery or faceted and unbonded. Beneath this layer the snow cover is hardened, making it difficult for the new snowdrift to bond with the old snowpack surface. Based on the weather forecast, we expect only small and shallow drifted masses to start with. Elsewhere the snowpack up to intermediate altitudes on sunny slopes is wet. Near the surface there are frequently melt-freeze crusts capable of bearing loads.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: fog and cloud dominate as light snowfall sets in from the northern Limestone Alps and Kitzbühel Alps all the way to the Main Alpine Ridge. The last bright intervals between Samnaun and Ötztal Alps will close. Increasing cloud also on the southern flank of the Alps, snow showers will arise in the Dolomites to East Tirol more than anywhere else, bringing 5-15 cm of new fallen snow widespread, in the Hohe Tauern as much as 30 cm. Temperature at 2000m: minus 5 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000m: minus 11 to minus 14 degrees. Light to moderate southwesterly winds, later shifting to northerly. Weather in general: Cold air masses are streaming over western Europe towards the western Mediterranean, unleashing a low pressure front. The result will be late winter conditions in the Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The snowfall will increase avalanche danger somewhat. Caution urged towards drifted snow masses.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe