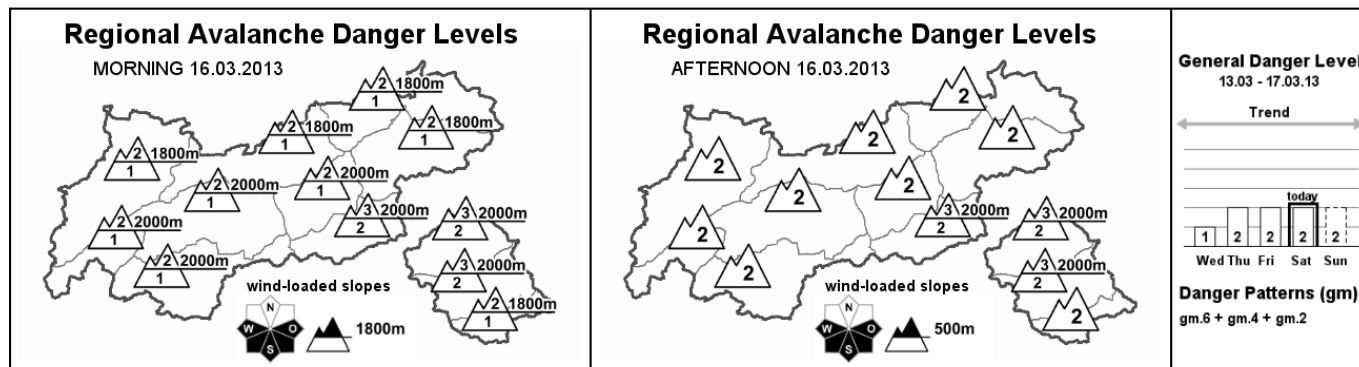


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 16.03.2013, at 07:30



Numerous loose avalanches, treacherous situation in parts of East Tirol

AVALANCHE DANGER

The threatening factors today are twofold: on the one hand, fresh snowdrift, on the other, loosely packed avalanches. Drifted snow masses above the treeline require great caution, especially in eastern regions and at high altitudes, and in East Tirol and the Zillertal Alps more than anywhere else, where the snowdrift is more widespread and deeper, making it extremely easy to trigger above 2000m. This raises the danger level to considerable; beneath 2000m it is moderate; beneath 1600m it is low. In the rest of Tirol the danger level this morning below about 1800m is low, above 1800m it is moderate. As the daytime warming cycle makes its effect felt, and solar radiation increases, the danger level can increase somewhat. In very steep, drifted ridgeline terrain, in addition, small naturally triggered avalanches are possible on sun drenched slopes above the treeline, particularly in eastern regions. Furthermore, in sunny, craggy terrain, numerous loosely packed avalanches are expected today. Isolated full depth snowslides are still a threat on steep, grassy slopes; areas below glide cracks should be avoided whenever possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The light, loose, cold new fallen snow of recent days has been massively transported by the strong winds, particularly in eastern regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge. Snow profile analysis demonstrates the poor bonding with the snow base beneath it, which consists either of loose fresh snow or of faceted crystals which in turn have formed atop melt-freeze crusts or wind crusts. Apart from these weaknesses near the uppermost surface, the old snow cover is compact.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: brilliant sunshine, outstanding visibility, cold to begin with. Significant rise in temperatures during the course of the day (about 10 degrees). High altitude cloud will move in from the west in the latter part of the day. Tonight, southerly winds will intensify and the skies become variably cloudy. Temperature at 2000m: rising from -16 degrees to -6 degrees by this evening; at 3000m: rising from -20 to -12 degrees. Northerly winds will slacken off, decelerating to by midday. This evening, intensifying southwesterly wind. Weather in general: intermediate high pressure will dominate today, tomorrow a powerful southwesterly air current will take over, on Monday a cold front will approach from the west as a low forms over Italy.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Good conditions will continue, the situation will soon improve in eastern regions

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe