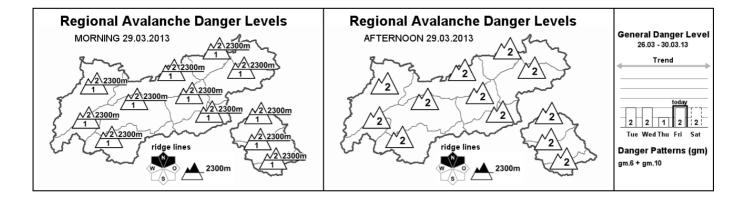
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol Friday, 29.03.2013, at 07:30





Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations above 2300 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

Predominantly favourable conditions continue to prevail. Above approximately 2300 m the danger level is moderate; below 2300 m it is low. As of this afternoon the danger level below 2300 m will rise to moderate. This is contingent on the increasingly diffuse radiation which moistens the snowpack. In extremely steep terrain, backcountry skiers and freeriders can then trigger small, loose avalanches. The greatest caution is currently necessary towards fresh snowdrift accumulations on northern slopes above about 2300 m. The drifted masses tend to increase in frequency and proneness to triggering with ascending altitude, meaning that at high altitudes even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release a slab avalanche. The danger zones occur frequently near ridgelines and behind terrain edges. As the snow cover becomes more thoroughly wet in wind protected low and intermediate altitude terrain, the danger of full depth snowslides will increase somewhat on steep, grassy slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The cold front has brought about 10 cm of snowfall, heaviest in East Tirol and in the southern regions of North Tirol. Strong winds - in foehn corridors at storm strength - have transported the snow masses at high altitudes, which are subsequently prone to triggering at the point of contact to the new fallen snow, since the fresh snow is cold, loose and less subject to influence from the diffuse radiation. The old snowpack manifests few weak layers, although the snow quality is highly varied, extending from breakable crusts to melt-freeze crusts capable of bearing loads to heavily wind-impacted surfaces and powder.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A cold front over the British Isles is creating a high pressure zone, bringing Tirol a stable, easterly airstream in which perturbances, cloud and precipitation are embedded. Mountain weather today: Apart from strong westerly winds, the conditions are pleasant, with little cloud, some sunshine around midday, isolated snow showers possible. Towards evening, heavy cloud will move in from the west, visibility become diffuse and snow showers more frequent. Temperature at 2000m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000m: minus 8 degrees. Strong westerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable conditions will continue. The major peril stems from fresh snowdrift at high altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe

