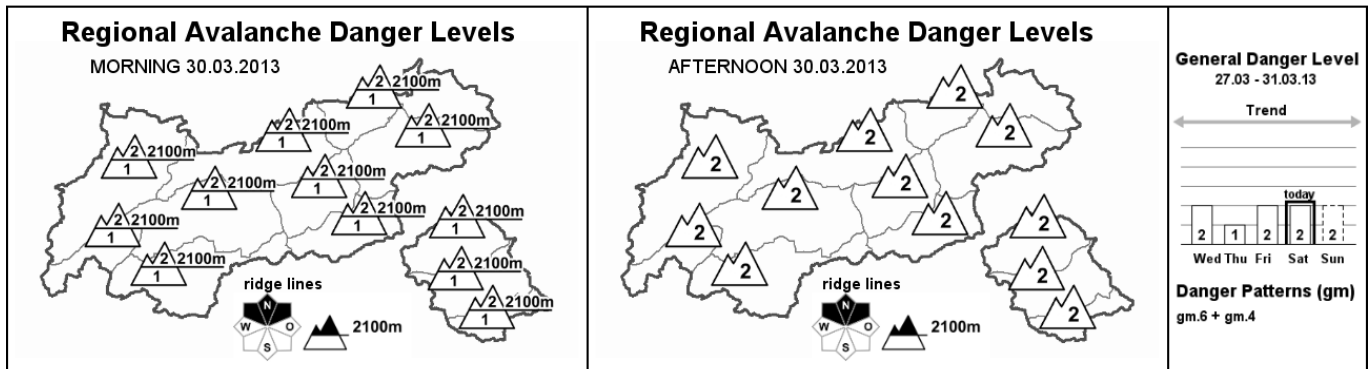


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 30.03.2013, at 07:30



Beware ridgeline snowdrift. Snowfall will raise danger level slightly

AVALANCHE DANGER

Favourable conditions continue to reign. The danger level above about 2100 m is moderate, below 2100 m it is low. As bad weather and rainfall arrive, the danger will rise to moderate in general. Avalanche prone locations are above 2100 m where there are snowdrift accumulations. With increasing altitude, they tend to become more numerous and more prone to triggering. In other words, at high altitudes, even minimum additional loading can release a slab avalanche. On very steep, north facing slopes and in east facing ridgeline terrain special caution is urged, especially in the foehn-exposed regions and along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Tux Alps. The snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes will become more thoroughly wet during the day, first due to radiation, then due to rain, at which point small, loose avalanches can be triggered on steep slopes by skiers and freeriders. Full depth snowslides remain a threat on steep, grassy slopes. Avoid areas beneath glide cracks in the snowpack surface!

SNOW LAYERING

Insignificant snowfall last night. The snowpack is well structured, by and large, and stable. One exception: the fresh snowdrift accumulations which are found especially in shady, high alpine terrain, and are poorly bonded with the loose, light powder beneath them. In the western regions where the snowfall was heavier, a thin, faceted layer is evident near the surface around 2500 m on steep slopes which could provide a new bed surface for avalanches when the next spell of fresh fallen snow is deposited on top of it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a low over northern Italy is bringing increasingly moist air masses full of perturbances from the Mediterranean to the Alps. By Easter Sunday the airstream will shift to northwesterly and conditions will turn wintry again. Mountain weather today: Visibility remains impaired, partly from residual cloud, partly from the afternoon cloudbanks which will move in from the south. This afternoon it will begin to snow, on the southern flank of the Alps to start with, then extending to North Tirol by this evening. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. In the classic foehn corridors, brisk to strong southwesterly winds, slackening off during the day, then shifting to northerly this evening.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowfall will increase avalanche danger at high altitudes

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe