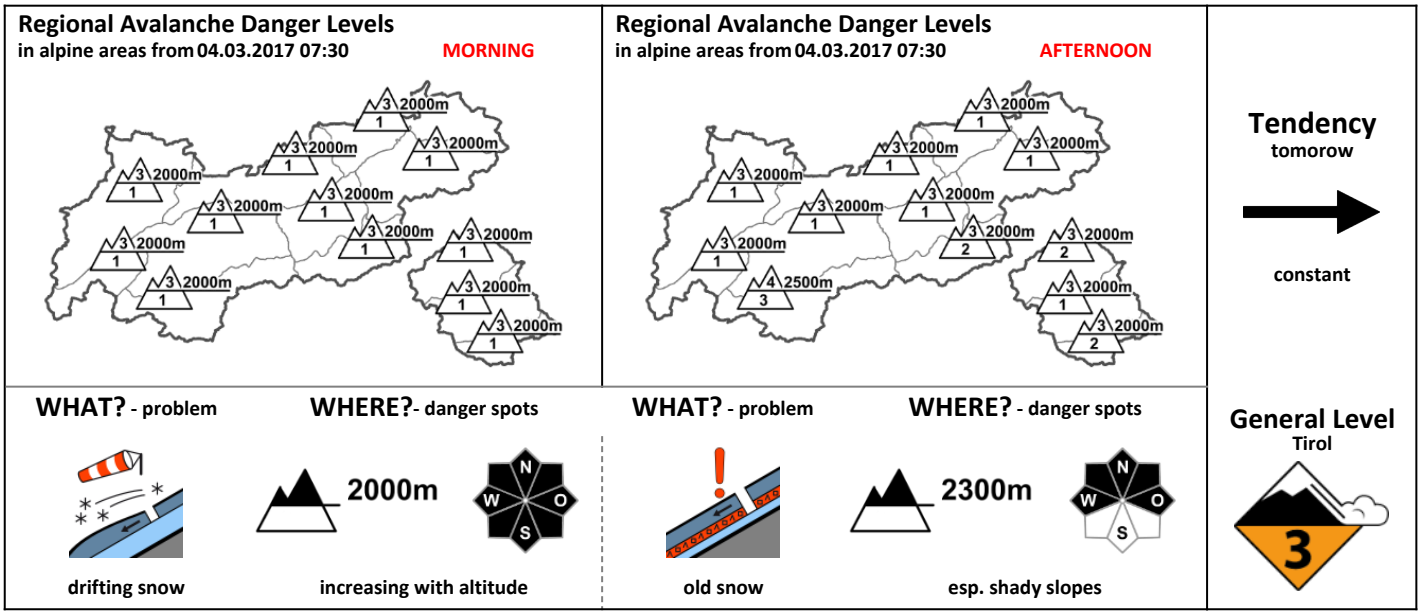
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Saturday, 04.03.2017, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold

Danger rising to HIGH in southern Ötztal Alps today. Beware snowdrifts!

AVALANCHE DANGER

For backcountry tourers, storm and snowfall are creating truly inhospitable conditions today. Danger above the treeline is considerable; below that altitude, danger is low. As a result of the forecast snowfall which will be heaviest in the southern Ötztal Alps, the danger will rise to high this afternoon. Naturally triggered slab avalanches are likely in very steep avalanche paths. They can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack and thus grow to medium size. This applies primarily to altitude zone above 2500m, ever more on very steep NW-N-E facing slopes. Naturally triggered slab avalanches are also possible in the regions where snowfall has been heavy in the Zillertal and southern Tux Alps, as well as in southern East Tirol. In the remaining regions of Tirol, the danger stems from the fresh snowdrift accumulations. The drifts become deeper, more frequent and increasingly easy to trigger with ascending altitude. In steep terrain they should under all circumstances be circumvented. East-facing slopes at 2600-2800m are prone to triggering due to the recent formation of a weak layer inside the snow cover.

SNOW LAYERING

Storm-strength winds and the onset of snowfall from the south will lead to wide-ranging, massive snow transport. This will drastically increase the weight on the snowpack. As a result, in those regions where snowfall is heaviest, avalanches can fracture down to deeply embedded weak layers inside the snowpack, as of 2300m on north-facing slopes, as of 2600m on east and some west-facing slopes. Snowdrifts, furthermore, can release where they have been deposited on top of the recently deposited graupel atop covered powder snow at high altitude.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Caution: in nearly all mountain ranges, gale-strength winds will prevail. It is a day to avoid outlying terrain, backcountry tours are dangerous! The mountain ranges encircling the Inn Valley are generally free of cloud, visibility good. South of the Main Ridge, cloud accumulates and clings to the mountain flanks, repeated snowfall is the result. In the Ötztal Alps the snowpack will increase noticeably by this evening, elsewhere only small amounts will be added. At 2000m: +3 degrees in the north, -2 degrees in the south; at 3000m: -1 degree in the north, -7 degrees in the south. Gale-strength southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As the storm slackens off, the situation will ease.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**