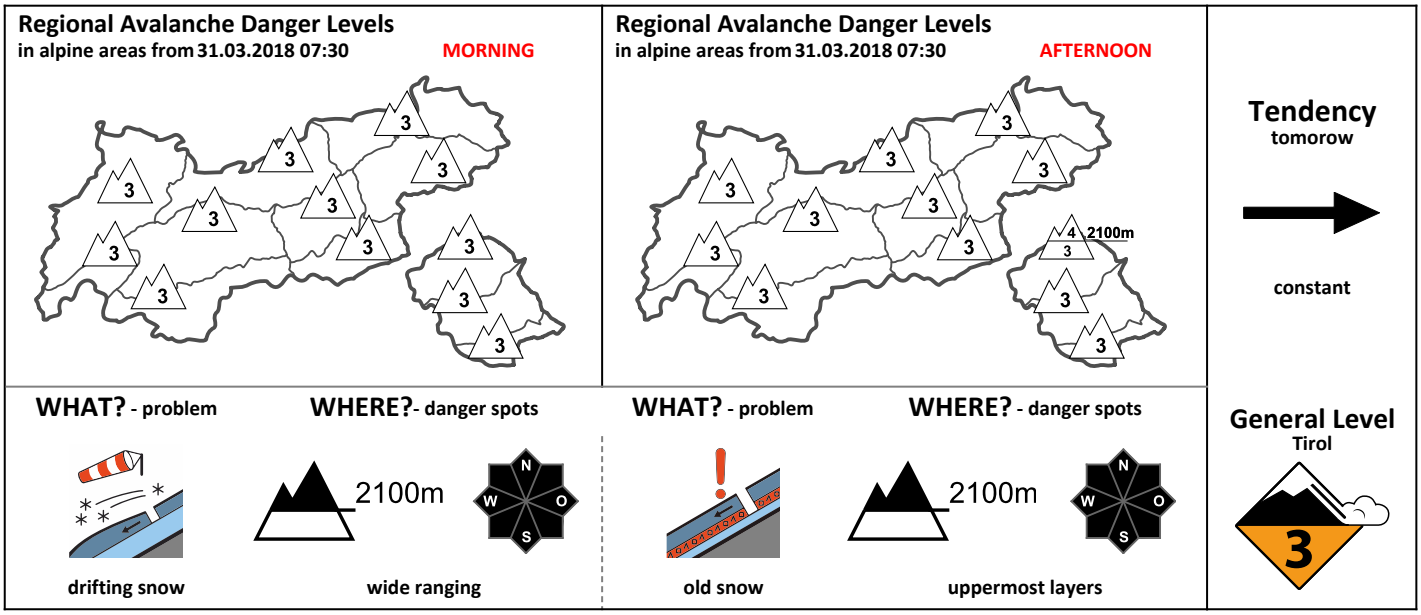
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Saturday, 31.03.2018, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.6 - loose snow and wind dp.2 - gliding snow dp.4 - cold following warm / warm following cold

High avalanche danger possible today. Treacherous situation for backcountry skiers!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Considerable avalanche danger prevails widespread in Tirol In the border regions along the Main Alpine Ridge of the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and eastwards therefrom, the danger is even more acute: as a result of fresh snow and strong wind, avalanche danger could rise to level 4 (high) today. Thus, naturally triggered avalanches are quite likely, and can also grow to large size. Fracture points are found increasingly on W-N-E facing slopes above 2100 m and in steep south-facing ridgeline terrain at high altitudes. In the regions where precipitation is heaviest, unfavourable and dangerous conditions reign for backcountry freeriders and skiers. In the other regions, the main danger stems from fresh snowdrift accumulations. Reports from skiers confirm that the proneness to triggering increases significantly with ascending altitude. Furthermore, at low and intermediate altitudes the thoroughly wet snowpack causes its own dangers. On extremely steep slopes, wet loose-snow avalanches can trigger. Special attention is urged towards the risks of gliding avalanches on steep, grassy slopes, even when ascending to a hut or refuge. Poor visibility makes on-site assessment all the more difficult.

SNOW LAYERING

Precipitation under the aegis of strong foehn wind was Tirol's fate yesterday, most of which fell along the Main Alpine Ridge from the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps eastwards. From place to place, 30-50 cm of fresh snow was registered. In central East Tirol and southern East Tirol there was 10-30 cm, in the other regions of Tirol usually 15 cm. Below 1800 m, it frequently fell as rain. At high altitudes, storm-strength foehn wind raged. More snowfall will follow, which will burden the snowpack further. Inside the snowpack are several potential weak layers which could fracture as the burdensome weight atop them increases. Apart from the well known weak layers of faceted crystals aboe 2500 m are also layers of surface hoar on shady slopes, blanketed powder at high altitudes, and graupel.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

It is again turning wintery in the mountains: north and south of the Main Alpine Ridge the peaks are veiled in clouds and fog, repeated bouts of snowfall are added to the brew, as well as strong winds in the region of the Southern Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge. Visibility will deteriorate. Temperature at 2000 m: -3 to -5 degrees; at 3000 m: -10 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds, shifting to northwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Unfavourable conditions widespread

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**