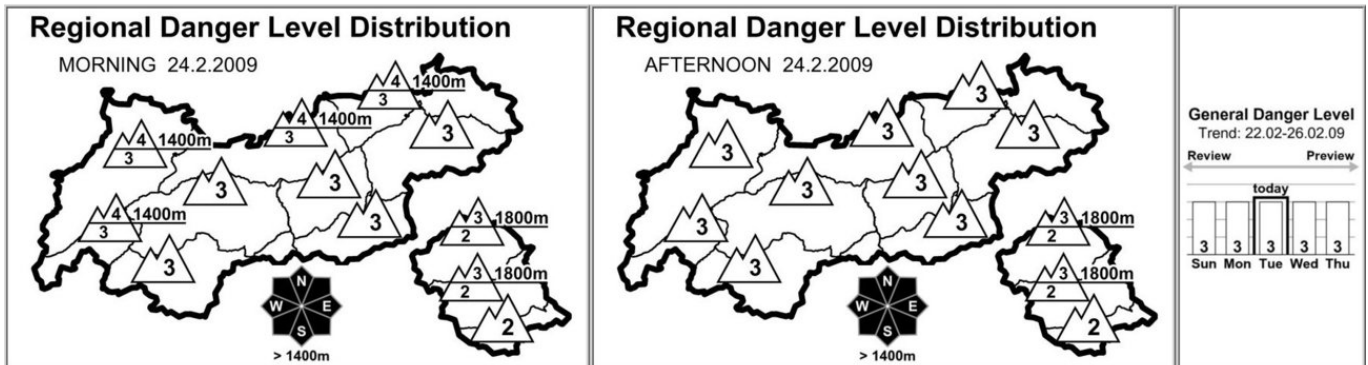


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 24.02.2009, at 07:30



HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER ABOVE 1400 M IN REGIONS WITH LOTS OF NEW SNOW IN NORTH TYROL

AVALANCHE DANGER

In North Tyrol, unfavourable conditions continue to prevail. In the regions where it recently snowed quite heavily, e.g. the Silvretta-Samnaun to the Arlberg-Ausserfern regions, the Northern Alps and the northern Kitzbühel Alps, the danger above 1400 m will be "high" this morning. As precipitation and wind taper off in the course of the day, the danger level is expected to diminish to "considerable". In North Tyrol's remaining regions, the danger is considerable widespread. Natural avalanches can be expected today primarily in very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2000 m, and increasingly on steep, west to north to east facing slopes below about 2300 m. Particularly at lower and intermediate altitudes due to the inordinate weight of the new snow masses, avalanches can attain large size and even put exposed parts of transportation routes at risk in isolated cases. Backcountry skiers and freeriders in North Tyrol should have experience in assessing avalanche hazards if they depart from secured ski runs into outlying terrain. The conditions on heavily frequented routes and slopes are more favourable, although caution is urged towards the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations adjacent to ridge lines. The situation in southern East Tyrol is better.

SNOW LAYERING

Since the beginning of February there has been an unusual amount of new snow in Tyrol, in the southern regions to begin with, then in the northern regions. In the last 24 hours from the Silvretta to the Arlberg to the eastern sector of the Northern Alps, there has been an additional 30 to 50 cm of new snow, amid strong winds in places. Elsewhere there was generally 20 cm, in isolated cases 40 cm; in northern East Tyrol, 15 cm, while southern East Tyrol remained dry. Several weak layers are embedded inside the snowpack in all aspects, the most critical of which is a loosely packed layer of faceted crystals below about 2300 m on west to north to east facing slopes which can be unleashed merely by the additional weight of the new snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: moist air masses are streaming towards the Alps from the northwest today. On Wednesday, an interim high pressure zone will dominate the weather temporarily. Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge, clouds and snowfall; from the Ortler across the Dolomites to the Carnic Alps, northerly winds and sunshine. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The daytime warming cycle will further escalate the avalanche danger this morning, making an increase to Level 4 possible.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe