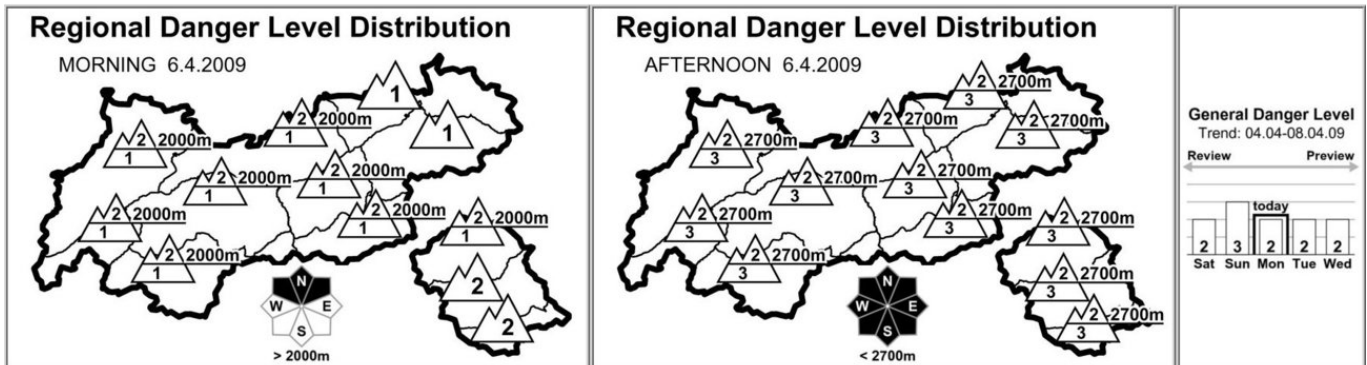


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 06.04.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS DURING THE MORNING - INCREASING AVALANCHE DANGER DURING THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the morning hours, quite favourable backcountry touring conditions reign in Tyrol, with low avalanche danger in places; in East Tyrol, the danger is generally moderate. Caution this morning especially on very steep northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above approximately 2000 m, where slab avalanches (which can attain large size) can be triggered in transitions from little to lots of snow and in areas with shallow snow primarily through large additional loading. This is especially the case in the Tux, Stubai, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps and in northern East Tyrol. The hazards will again escalate over the course of the day. Due to the much drier air masses of recent days, avalanches are more seldom, but on very steep east-northeast to south to west-northwest slopes, natural avalanches can be expected as of midday below about 2700 m in particular. The likelihood of triggering is higher on shady slopes. Thus, backcountry tours should be undertaken, and ended, early in the day.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack stabilised well during the night. At intermediate altitudes in all expositions as well as on sun-bathed slopes in high alpine regions, there is generally a crust capable of bearing loads. If the descent is begun early enough, perfect firn snow conditions prevail! In the course of the day, the snowpack becomes increasingly moist, even thoroughly wet, losing its firmness. On sun-bathed slopes, the snowpack is characterised by a variety of melt-freeze crusts. On shady slopes above approximately 2000 m, especially in wind protected bowls, there is still a faceted weak layer from mid-January which has been responsible for most of the avalanches discharged until now.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a high air pressure zone prevails over the Alps, the air masses are relatively dry in the early part of the week. Later on, a high altitude low pressure front over the western Mediterranean will break down this front. Mountain weather today: springlike conditions in the mountains. The freezing level is at approximately 2500 m, the cumulus clouds are generally harmless. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Light southwesterly winds, in those areas exposed to foehn influence the winds will be brisk.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing daytime rise in avalanche danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe