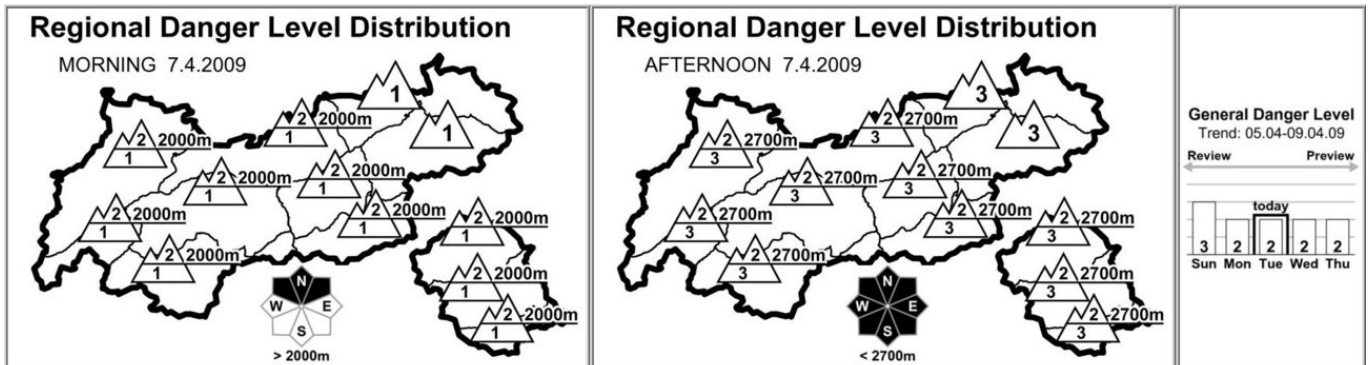


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 07.04.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS THIS MORNING - RISING AVALANCHE DANGER LATER IN THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is again subject to a daytime warming cycle. In the morning, favourable conditions prevail widespread, with danger contingent on altitude: below about 2000 m it is low, above that altitude generally moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on northwest to north to northeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m, where especially in places with shallow snow avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading. In more wind protected, shady bowls, even large sized avalanches are possible. As the temperature rises through the day and solar radiation increases, the snowpack will lose its firmness and the hazards will escalate, initially on very steep, east facing slopes, later in other expositions as well. Below about 2700 m the danger level "considerable" will be reached and natural avalanches can be expected on sun-bathed slopes. However, due to the dry air masses, less avalanche activity is anticipated than on the weekend. Full depth snowslides and avalanches on steep hillsides are more likely this afternoon, but are possible at any time of day.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack became firmer during the night. In low lying areas, the surface is breakable, but with increasing altitude the melt freeze crust is more capable of bearing loads up to over 3000 m on sun-bathed slopes. Beneath the crust the snowpack is moist, or even wet, at low and intermediate altitudes. At higher altitudes this is the case for sun-bathed slopes, especially on steep slopes, where moistness is always greater. A faceted layer from mid-January is still a potential bed surface for avalanches, prevalent on wind protected, shady slopes but evident everywhere. On sunny slopes, melt freeze crusts can also serve as bed surfaces for avalanches as of midday. The wind will impede the moistening of the snowpack somewhat.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: lots of sunshine, but strong southerly winds in regions exposed to foehn influence will dampen the mildness somewhat. Elsewhere, good visibility, somewhat hazy on the southern flank of the Alps, with prominent convective cloud; in the Dolomites there may be local showers this evening. From the Main Alpine Ridge northwards, conditions will remain stable. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 to plus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Moderate southerly winds, on foehn-exposed mountains the winds will be brisk to strong.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Unchanged springlike conditions, with avalanche danger subject to daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe