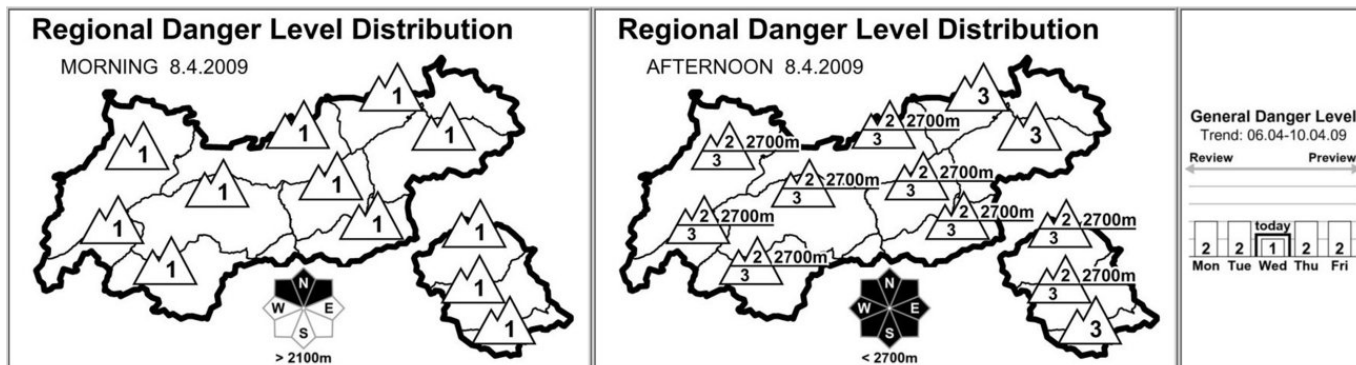


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 08.04.2009, at 07:30



PERFECT BACKCOUNTRY TOURING CONDITIONS IN THE MORNING - RISING DANGER DURING THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

During the morning hours, generally favourable conditions prevail amid low avalanche danger. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders are to be found only on very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes between 2100 and 2700 m and in high altitude, shady and steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, where primarily through large additional loading isolated avalanches can be triggered in places with shallow snow in particular. This applies to the Stubai, Ötztal, Tux and Zillertal Alps as well as to northern East Tyrol. During the day, the hazards will increase to level 3, "considerable" below about 2700 m as the snowpack becomes more moist. As of midday on very steep east facing slopes, later on south and west facing slopes, isolated wet snow avalanches can be triggered below 2700 m in particular. There is also likelihood of triggering full depth snowslides by persons at any time of day and in all expositions.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack firmed up during the night, thanks to outgoing longwave radiation, forming a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads, although it is thinner at lower altitudes. This crust will soften over the course of the day, forfeiting its firmness due to moistness or wetness particularly at low and intermediate altitudes and on steep sun-bathed slopes. This process is slowed down by the winds at high altitudes, similar to yesterday, making firm snow possible even in the afternoon. A faceted layer from mid-January, prevalent on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes but evident in all expositions, is still a potential bed surface for avalanches, as are embedded melt freeze crusts when they become wet in the afternoon.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a weak high pressure zone will make itself felt in Tyrol over the next few days. A disturbance over France will lose its punch on the way eastwards, though its southern sector will remain as a low above the Mediterranean. Mountain weather today: good weather in the mountains. This afternoon, buildup of convective cloud, but only scattered showers at most. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 to plus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 to minus 3 degrees. Moderate southeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing favourable conditions in the morning, daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe