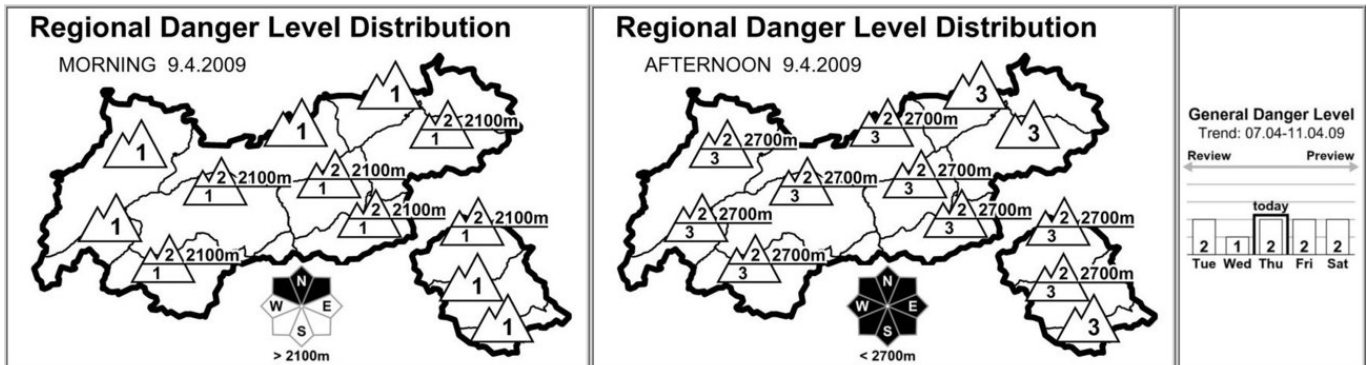


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 09.04.2009, at 07:30



STILL GENERALLY FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS THIS MORNING - RISING AVALANCHE DANGER DURING THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on the daytime warming cycle once again. During the morning, quite favourable conditions and low avalanche danger prevail. The only exception: in the inneralpine regions and in northern East Tyrol, the danger above 2100 m is moderate, because higher moisture has raised the likelihood of dry slab avalanches triggering on very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes as of late morning. Particularly in spots with shallow snow and in wind-protected bowls up to about 2700 m, slab avalanches can be unleashed by large additional loading. However, the decisive factor today is the daytime warming cycle. Through increasing moisture or wetness, the snowpack will rapidly lose its firmness, initially at lower and intermediate altitudes and on steep, east facing slopes, then following the sun, on south and west facing slopes as well. Isolated wet avalanches are expected, backcountry skiers and freeriders can also trigger wet and slab avalanches in steep terrain. Full depth snowslides continue to be possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack surface firmed up during the night, although due to increased moistness and partial cloudiness in some Tyrolean regions, the melt freeze crust is not as strong as in recent days. Nevertheless, above 1600 m on sun-exposed slopes there is generally a crust capable of bearing loads, beneath which the snowpack is thoroughly wet at lower and intermediate altitudes. In high alpine regions there is still powder snow. Potential bed surfaces for avalanches are still the faceted layer from mid-January which above 2000 m can be found in all expositions, but more frequently on shady slopes. Also, on east-northeast to south to west-northwest facing slopes a wet melt-freeze crust is embedded in the snowpack which could be hazardous as of midday.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a high pressure zone above the Alps dominates. A low over the western Mediterranean will bring foehn wind conditions to the northern flank of the Alps as of Friday. Pleasant weather conditions are expected to extend over the Easter holidays. Mountain weather today: good conditions, strong sunshine, generally little wind and temperatures above zero up to 2700 m at midday. Backcountry tours should be brought to a close early in the day. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 to plus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 to minus 2 degrees. Light to moderate southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is again subject to the daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe