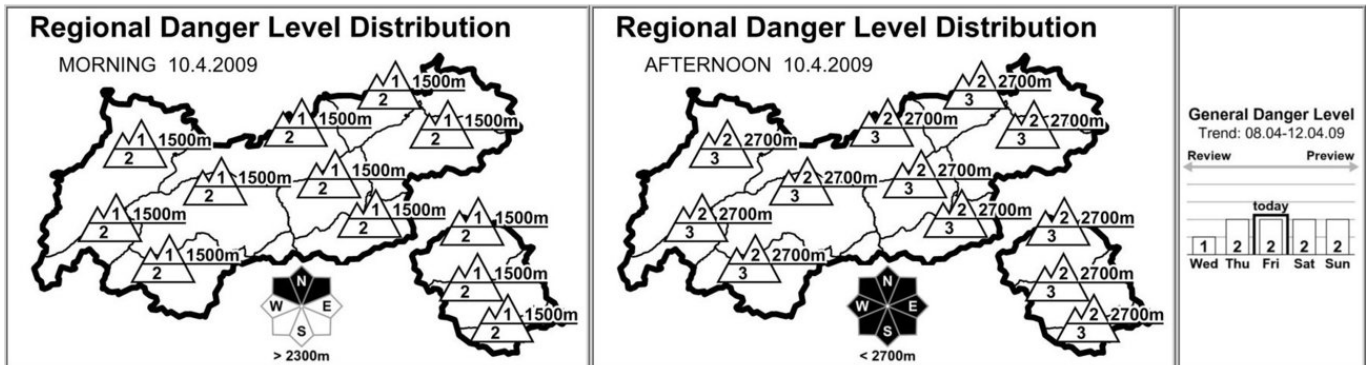


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 10.04.2009, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS CONTINUE DURING THE MORNING - RISING AVALANCHE DANGER LATER ON

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger continues to depend on the time of day and on the altitude. Below about 1500 m the danger is moderate, above that altitude it is low until late morning. Then, due to moistening snowpack and softening of the melt-freeze crust, the danger surges, reaching level 3, "considerable" up to 2700 m by midday. Initially this is the case for low and intermediate altitudes and east facing slopes, but following the sun cycle it soon applies to south and west facing slopes. Due to low humidity and wind, only isolated natural avalanches are expected; more likely are full depth snowslides on grassy hillsides, which however can be large. As of midday the situation is dangerous for backcountry skiers and freeriders: the snowpack can be easily disturbed and both wet and dry slab avalanches unleashed above 2000 m. The danger of slab avalanches on very steep northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above 2300 m is also great as of midday. We recommend bringing ascents to huts and tours to a close early in the day.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is melting, due to the early summertime temperatures and intense solar radiation, nearly 10 cm daily. The snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is wet in all expositions, though the surface has again formed a melt freeze crust which is generally capable of bearing loads above 1500 m. On north facing slopes above 2400 m, a breakable crust is often evident, above 3000 m there is still powder in some steep terrain. The loose, faceted layer from mid-January remains a danger as it becomes more mixed with melted snow. The melt freeze crusts on sunny slopes, which serve as a reservoir for melting water, also present a danger. Winds may well slow the moistening process today.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: superb winter sports weather at high altitudes and magnificent hiking weather in the snow-free zones. The freezing level will be at 2900 m this afternoon. Temperatures at 2000 m: plus 2 to plus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 degrees. Moderate to strong southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The typical springtime situation is expected to continue.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe