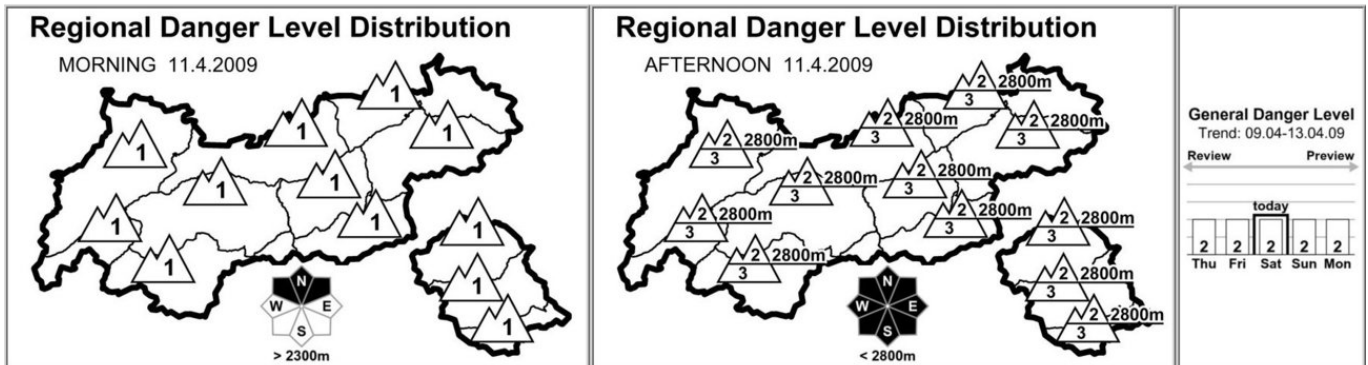


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 11.04.2009, at 07:30



SUPERB FIRN SNOW FOR EARLY DESCENTS! AVALANCHE DANGER ESCALATES RAPIDLY THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Once again, avalanche danger depends on the time of day. During the entire morning, low danger prevails, which then swiftly increases, as the snowpack moistens and the melt freeze crust softens, to level 3: initially at low and intermediate altitudes and on steep, east facing slopes, later on south and west facing slopes below about 2800 m in particular. As of that point, even an impulse from a single backcountry skier or freerider can easily trigger wet snow avalanches which attain large size. Also as of midday, slab avalanches on very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2300 m threaten. Natural avalanches will be isolated, primarily on sun-bathed slopes. This is also the case for full depth snowslides, although they are possible in all expositions and at any time of day on steep meadows.

SNOW LAYERING

Cloudless weather and low humidity permitted the snowpack excellent outgoing radiation during the night, which led to melt-freeze crusts forming which are capable of bearing loads (except in forests and at low altitudes). Below the crust, the snowpack is moist or wet at least up to 2200 m in all expositions, and up to over 3000 m on sun-exposed slopes. On east-northeast to south to west-northwest slopes, melt water canals and thin, older melt-freeze crusts are often embedded inside the snowpack. In all expositions above approximately 2000 m, in addition, a softer, moist layer from mid-January is deeply embedded, almost at ground level, which can serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. With increasing moisture, the snowpack drastically loses its firmness. In high alpine regions on steep, shady slopes, there is still powder and surface hoar.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: wedged between a low above the western Mediterranean and a high above Russia, the Alps are caught in a southerly airstream. Mountain weather today: ideal weather for winter sports in the mountains and ideal hiking/biking weather in low-altitude, snow-free zones. The freezing level is at 2700 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 5 degrees: at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Moderate to strong southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Unchanged favourable conditions in the morning hours, danger level then rises throughout the day.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe