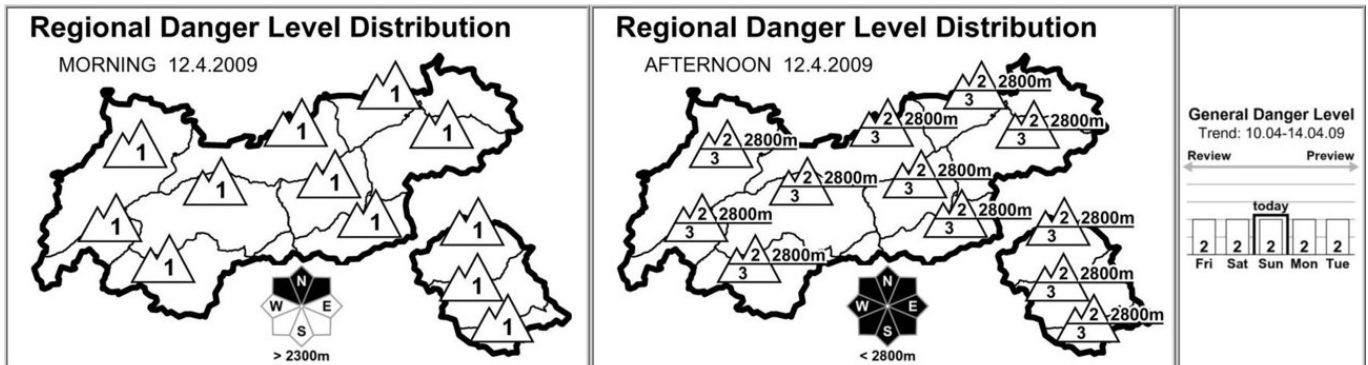


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 12.04.2009, at 07:30



AGAIN FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS UNTIL MID MORNING - RISING AVALANCHE DANGER DURING THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger depends once again on the time of day. Whereas danger is low during the morning, the daytime warming cycle and solar radiation will quickly soften the melt-freeze crust, thus increasing avalanche danger swiftly up to about 2800 m to level 3, "considerable"; above that altitude it will be "moderate". Initially this applies to low and intermediate altitudes in all expositions and steep, east facing terrain. As of midday, south and west facing slopes become equally dangerous, along with steep, shady slopes. Backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger wet snow avalanches with ease as of noonday on sun-bathed slopes. The danger of slab avalanches is also raised on northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above approximately 2300 m. Natural loose snow and slab avalanches will occur only in isolated cases on extremely steep, sun-bathed slopes above approximately 2100 m. Full depth snowslides are possible on all expositions at any time of day, but are unlikely except in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack firmed up well during the night, though not as well as yesterday. Nonetheless, above 1600 m the melt freeze crust is generally capable of bearing loads in open terrain, beneath it the snowpack is wet at low and intermediate altitudes and on sun-bathed slopes up to over 3000 m. The firmness is forfeited significantly by the increasing moistness. As bed surfaces for slab avalanches, a loose, moist layer near the ground above 2000 m from mid-January is possible. Avalanches can also be released from thin melt freeze crusts as the water amounts increase inside the snowpack, particularly on steep, sun bathed slopes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: wedged between a low over the western Mediterranean and a high over Russia, Tyrol is caught in a southerly airstream, which will cause high altitude cloudbanks to sweep over the Alps. Mountain weather today: splendid weather for backcountry skiers and freeriders, hikers and bikers. The high altitude clouds will provide no disturbance. Freezing level is 2700 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 to plus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Moderate southeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springtime continues with favourable conditions in the early morning, but subject to a daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe