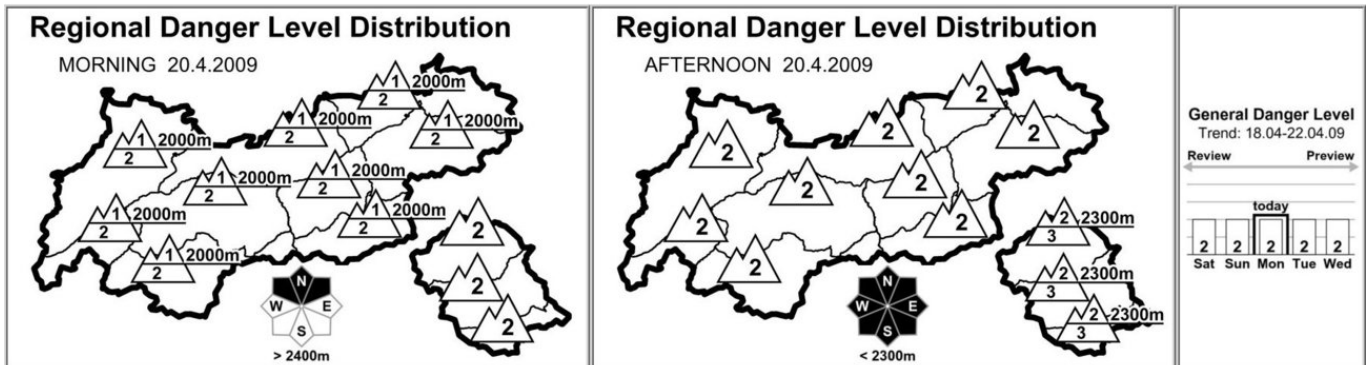


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 20.04.2009, at 07:30



GENERALLY MODERATE AVALANCHE DANGER - RISING SOMEWHAT OVER THE DAY

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in East Tyrol, due to rainfall, is generally "moderate", but will rise to "considerable" up to about 2300 m as the snowpack becomes increasingly wet over the course of the morning. In North Tyrol the danger in the early morning hours below 2000 m is "moderate", below that altitude it is "low". From the late morning, the hazards will increase there as well, and reach the level "moderate". A single backcountry skier or freerider can easily trigger wet slides, which can then attain large size. In East Tyrol, isolated natural avalanches are also possible. In particular, full depth snowslides can be expected on steep hillsides. Above 2400 m there are also avalanche prone locations on very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes, where large additional loading in shallow snow areas can trigger slab avalanches. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, caution is urged towards small sized snowdrift accumulations on very steep, shady slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack was not able to settle well during the night at low and intermediate altitudes, particularly in rain-drenched East Tyrol and some of the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge. The melt freeze crust is breakable, insofar as there is a crust. With increasing altitude, the stability of the snowpack increases in general. On shady slopes, at least above 2400 m, there is still a loose, faceted layer from mid-January which can serve as a bed surface for avalanches; there is also, near ridge lines on shady slopes, some surface hoar embedded beneath the uppermost layer. The bonding of the recently formed snowdrift is poor, thus raising the likelihood of triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: in the Northern Alps, varying sunny and cloudy phases with the possibility of scattered showers. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps, poor visibility and some rain (above approximately 2000-2200 m light snowfall). Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Moderate easterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Quite good backcountry touring conditions at high altitudes, though still subject to a daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe