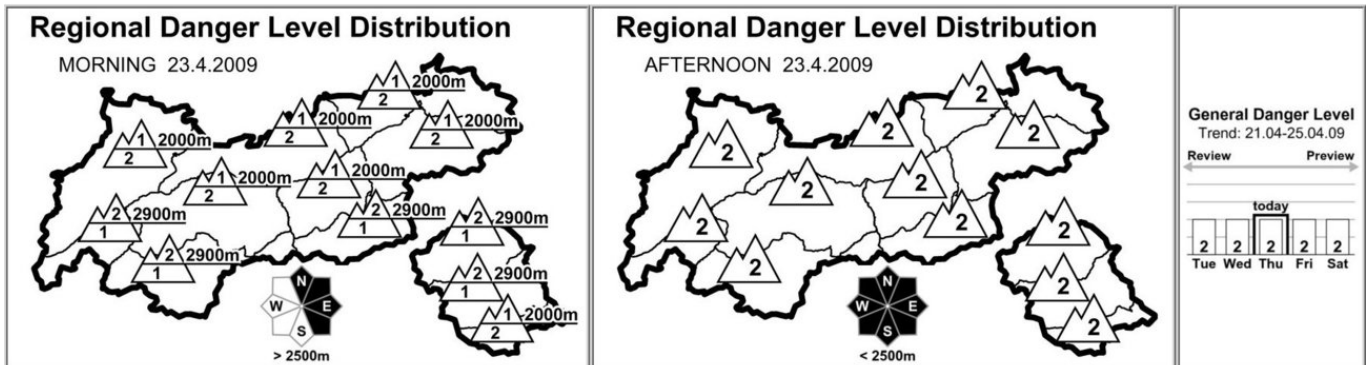


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 23.04.2009, at 07:30



INCREASING LOOSELY PACKED SNOW AVALANCHES DUE TO SOLAR RADIATION

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger today is contingent on altitude and will again escalate over the course of the day. Below about 2000 m, moderate danger prevails, above that altitude it is low; along the Main Alpine Ridge and in central East Tyrol above about 2900 m, it is moderate. The diffuse solar radiation will raise the danger to moderate again today. Wherever there is sunshine, increased frequency of loosely packed snow avalanches from craggy terrain can be expected. Most will remain small, but sometimes large snow masses can be swept along. Above 2900 m in very steep terrain on west-northwest to north to southeast facing slopes, the recently formed, generally small snowdrift accumulations are hazardous. In addition, above about 2500 m in very steep terrain on northwest to north to northeast transition areas from shallow to deep snow, avalanches are also possible. Wherever the snowpack is wet, the unleashing of wet slides is possible.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night above 1600 m, it snowed about 5 cm, up to 10 cm in isolated cases. Brisk westerly winds have created new, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations in high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines. The most critical bed surfaces are above 2900 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, where in very steep terrain a layer of surface hoar which formed before 16 April is embedded, sometimes with a thin ice sheet. The increased proneness to triggering is evidenced by recent isolated avalanches in which persons were involved. The drop in temperature has had a positive effect, at least above 2000 m, where the old snowpack surface was able to consolidate quite well.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: from the Main Alpine Ridge to the Northern Alps, generally poor visibility due to fog and snow showers. Intermittent bright spells in the fogbanks, but convective cloud will form and showers can be expected. Northerly winds will create pleasant weather conditions on the southern flank of the Alps. Winds will slacken off on Thursday night, it will be clear in high alpine regions, at lower altitudes low stratus cloud will form. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Moderate to brisk northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

More frequent loosely packed snow avalanches tomorrow due to rising temperatures.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe