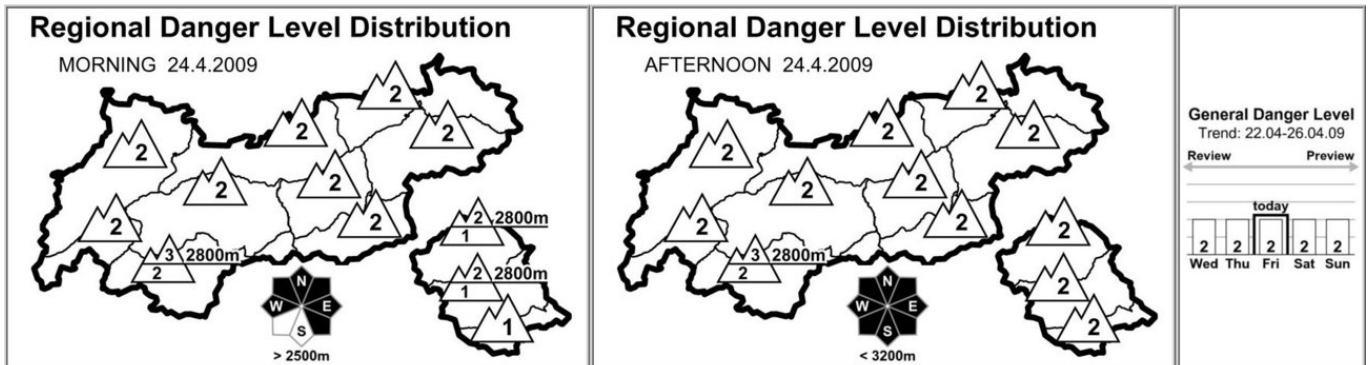


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 24.04.2009, at 07:30



FREQUENT LOOSELY PACKED SNOW AVALANCHES!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is once again dependent upon altitude and the progress of the daytime warming cycle. Conditions in the Stubai and Ötztal Alps above approximately 2800 m, where the hazards are considerable, are the worst, relative speaking. Below that altitude, the hazards are generally moderate. In East Tyrol, below 2800 m, the danger will be low widespread well into the afternoon. But the danger will increase with the anticipated solar radiation. Frequent loosely packed snow avalanches will be triggered from rocky terrain; below about 2300 m they can sweep along the thoroughly wet snowpack and attain large size. In high alpine regions near ridge lines, small natural slab avalanches are possible. Beware snowdrift accumulations today, especially above 2700 m in all expositions. Caution is also urged towards northwest to north to northeast facing steep slopes above 2500 m as well as towards the increasingly wet snowpack over the course of the day.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it snowed again in Tyrol, with highly varying amounts due to the scattered showers: at the Muttekopf Hut near Imst there was nearly 50 cm, in the Stubai and Ötztal Alps about 30 cm at higher altitudes, and widespread 10-20 cm, in East Tyrol less. The new snow has consolidated well with the old snowpack in general. Layers of graupel impede consolidation in some places. In high alpine regions near the Main Alpine Ridge on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, a layer of surface hoar together with a thin ice sheet were blanketed by the new snow over the weekend, thus providing a potential bed surface for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: some foehn wind influence in the mountains, amidst generally sunny weather. This afternoon, convective cloud buildup, which will veil some summits in fog. Poor visibility and intermittent showers on the southern flank of the Alps, particularly from the Dolomites to the East Tyrolean peaks. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 to minus 6 degrees. Light to moderate southeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will subside. Favourable conditions in early morning hours, with rising danger subject to daytime warming cycle.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe