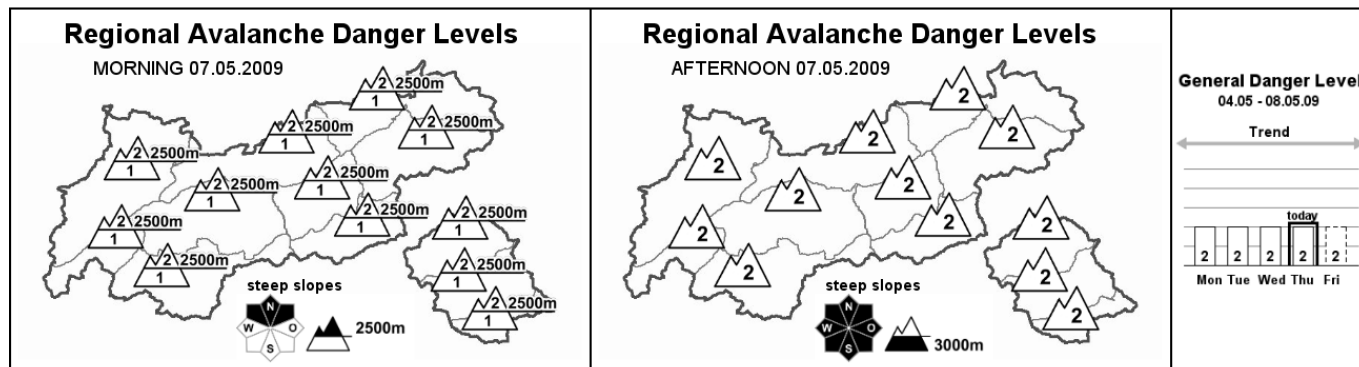


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 07.05.2009, at 07:30



CAUTION URGED TOWARDS SNOWDRIFT MASSES IN VERY STEEP TERRAIN ABOVE APPROXIMATELY 3000 M

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, favourable conditions prevail widespread. Below about 2500 m, the hazards in the early morning hours will be low, above that altitude moderate. The danger will then rise to moderate everywhere through the intensive solar radiation and daytime warming cycle. From extremely steep, craggy terrain in North Tyrol and in northern East Tyrol, point release avalanches can be expected which will begin in northeastern expositions, then shift to southern and northwestern expositions, but are not expected to reach large size. The major hazard still stems from snowdrift accumulations which formed in high alpine regions last week. Above about 3000 m, they can be triggered particularly on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes by large additional loading, in transitions from shallow to deep snow and in extremely steep terrain even by minimum additional loading. As the snowpack continues to become ever wetter, isolated small wet slides are also possible, especially on steep hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack below about 2500 m is moist or thoroughly wet. There is a thin melt freeze crust in early morning which above about 2000 m (except in North Tyrol's eastern regions) is generally capable of bearing loads. Two embedded layers are potential bed surfaces for avalanches: on the one hand, a graupel layer above approximately 3000 m which stems from a week ago in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and is partially covered over by a thick layer of snowdrift; and on the other, isolated, old, faceted, soft layers near the fundament which are rippled with melted crystals in northern regions above approximately 2500 m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a high pressure zone dominates the weather today; as of Friday, a southwestern airstream will bring moist and instable conditions, but it will remain mild. Mountain weather today: sunshine from early morning and all day long, only small convective cloud during the afternoon, generally unimpeded visibility. Rather warm, freezing level at 3300 meters and rising. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 to plus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 1 to plus 4 degrees. Generally moderate winds, this afternoon a bit of foehn wind influence is anticipated.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Conditions turning less favourable as moist air masses stream towards Tyrol.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe