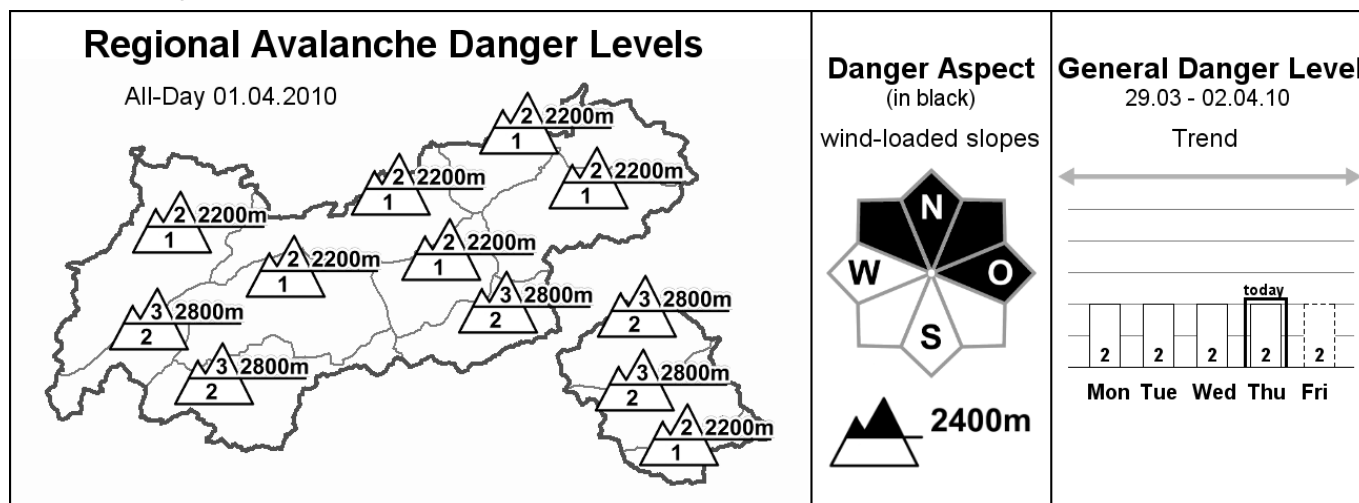


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 01.04.2010, at 07:30



Caution towards recently formed snowdrift masses in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2800 m, the conditions are least favourable of all: along the Main Alpine Ridge and in central East Tyrol, the danger level is considerable. Below that altitude down to about 2200 m, it is moderate; below about 2200 m, generally low. Caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift masses in high alpine regions, particularly in steep, northwest to north to east facing terrain adjacent to ridge lines, whose proneness to triggering increases with ascending altitude. Especially above approximately 2800 m, such snowdrift can be released even by minimum additional loading. Below about 2800 m, isolated avalanches in very steep transition areas from shallow to deep snow are possible through large additional loading, particularly on north facing slopes where avalanches can fracture even in the loosely packed old snowpack. Below about 2200 m, conditions are generally favourable.

SNOW LAYERING

A cold front swept across Tyrol yesterday evening, bringing only a few centimeters of snowfall. However, the temperatures, which are still falling, have had a stabilising influence on the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes. The surface has a melt freeze crust which is often capable of bearing loads. With increasing altitude, the wetness of the lowermost snowpack layers diminishes. Above approximately 2400 m on shade covered slopes there is still an embedded layer of pronounced depth hoar which could provide a bed surface for avalanches. Above approximately 2600 m, this layer is prevalent in other expositions as well. The snowpack surface is highly varied; at higher altitudes it has been heavily influenced by wind. Loosely packed powder is still evident in wind protected shady terrain in particular.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

In the eastern mountain ranges the weather will be pleasant during the early part of the day. In western regions, on the other hand, it will be overcast, increasingly foggy and it will soon begin to snow. The snowfall will spread to all regions by this afternoon and continue throughout the afternoon. Moreover, for early April the temperatures are unusually low. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 to minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 to minus 14 degrees and falling. Light to moderate winds from varying directions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

At high altitudes, new snowdrift masses are expected to form.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe