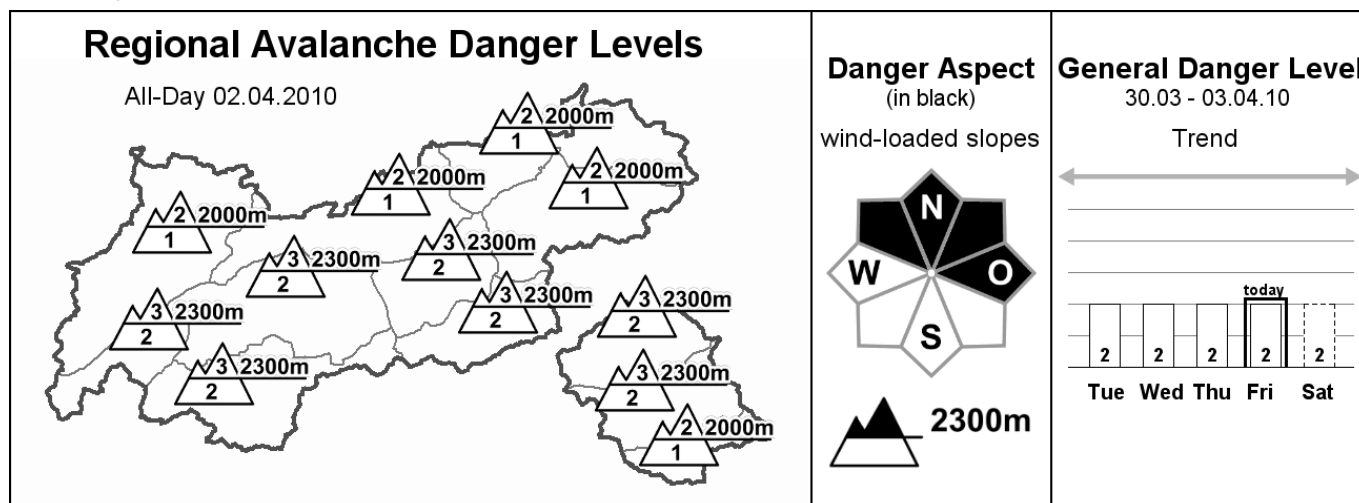


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 02.04.2010, at 07:30



Caution towards fresh, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations above 2300 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has escalated slightly since yesterday's snowfall. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the northern Stubai, Ötztal and Tux Alps, considerable avalanche danger prevails above approximately 2300 m due to the fresh snowdrift masses which can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Such danger zones are to be found frequently in very steep northwest to north to east facing terrain near ridge lines. Those with extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards can recognize such places quite well. Their proneness to triggering increases with ascending altitude. Elsewhere, in very steep, unfrequented terrain in west-northwest to north to east-northeast exposition above approximately 2400 m, caution is urged; there, in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, fractures in the old snowpack are possible primarily through large additional loading. Such avalanches can attain large size. Over the course of the day, small sized loosely packed snow avalanches are expected in extremely steep, sunny terrain. The regions with little new fallen snow and altitudes below 2000 m have more favourable conditions: generally low danger prevails.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has again been snowfall throughout Tyrol, most of which fell in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge (up to 25 cm). Due to the thunderstorm-like precipitation, it can be assumed that graupel has been deposited in the snowpack. The bonding of fresh snowdrift to such a layer is generally fragile, its proneness to triggering is thus higher. Elsewhere, the snowpack consolidated well at low altitudes. Beneath the layer of fresh fallen snow there is a melt freeze crust widespread which is capable of bearing loads. Above approximately 2400 m, initially on shady slopes, further up in other expositions as well, there is a loose layer of depth hoar near the ground which could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. The snowpack on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes is softer, avalanches can be more easily triggered there.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Quite sunny mountain weather today, although above 1700 m the temperature will be below zero all day long. Cloudbanks traversing the land will generally remain beneath summit altitude. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Light to moderate southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The proneness to triggering of snowdrift accumulations will recede.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe