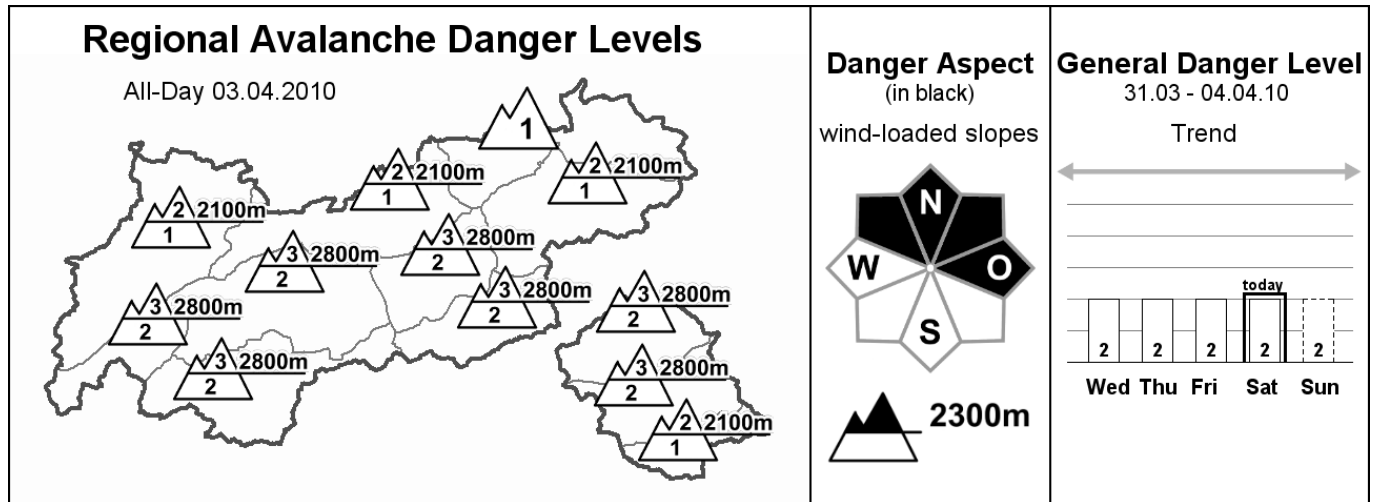


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 03.04.2010, at 07:30



Great caution urged near ridge lines and on very steep, shady slopes above 2300 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The degree of avalanche peril depends on altitude and is more favourable in northern than in southern regions. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, in the northern Ötztal, Stubai, Tux Alps and in central East Tyrol, the danger level above approximately 2800 m is considerable: in very steep terrain near ridge lines, particularly in northwestern to northern to eastern exposition, snowdrift accumulations can still be triggered by minimum additional loading. Below that altitude, the danger level is generally moderate. Below 2100 m, the danger level throughout Tyrol is low. Apart from recently formed snowdrift accumulations, additional danger zones can be found in very steep, shady terrain above approximately 2300 m, and in other expositions above approximately 2600 m, where primarily through large additional loading slab avalanches can be triggered in deeper layers of the old snowpack; on north facing slopes this is possible even through minimum additional loading. Avalanches are most easily unleashed in transition areas from shallow to deep snow; moreover they can attain medium size.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack below about 2100 m is now quite stable, following the cold weather of recent days. The melt freeze crust on the surface is generally between 10 and 20 cm thick and capable of bearing loads. Beneath the crust, the snowpack is often still moist. With increasing altitude, a deeply embedded layer of depth hoar from mid-winter is an ever greater threat, particularly above 2300 m, to begin with on shady slopes, with ascending altitude also in other expositions. In isolated cases, settling noises are indicators that when the snow layers atop this depth hoar are not deep, it is still easy to release the snowpack. In wind protected areas, powder snow is still amply evident, in high alpine regions the winds have exercised great influence on the snow. The greatest amount of new fallen snow is to be found in high alpine regions of the southern Ötztal Alps.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today is dominated by strong winds in exposed areas. The freezing level will climb towards 2000 m or above. Cloudbanks will sweep across the sky regularly, higher than the summits on the northern flank of the Alps, permitting sunshine to prevail. The Main Alpine Ridge and to some extent the Southern Alps will be shrouded in cloud today, a bit of snowfall is possible later in the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. In foehn exposed areas and near ridge lines, strong to storm velocity southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New snowdrift accumulations will form at high altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe