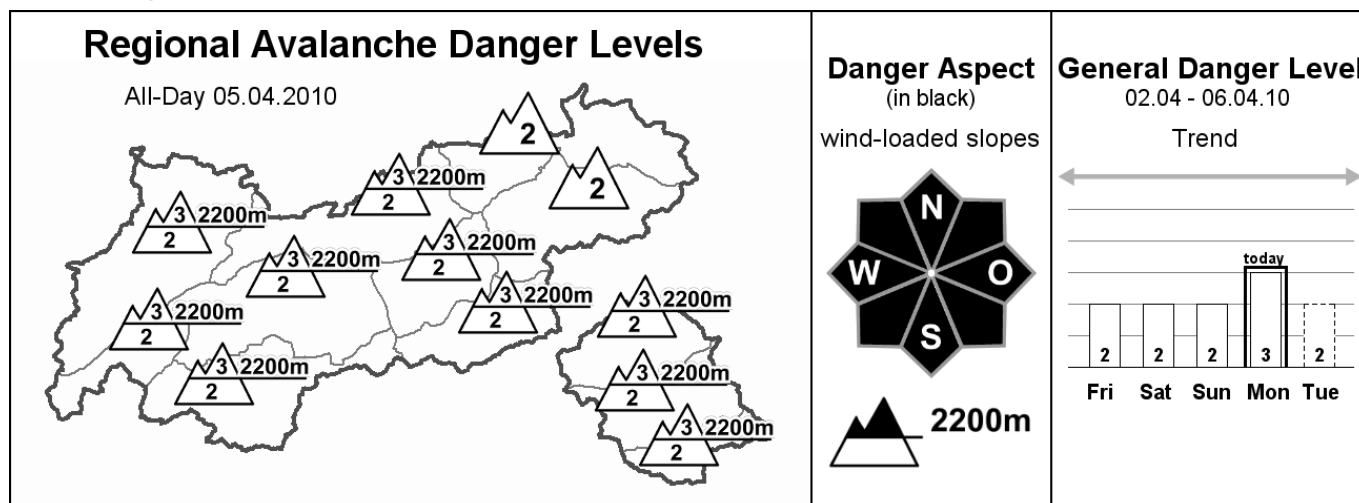


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 05.04.2010, at 07:30



Rising avalanche danger, following snowfall and wind

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has escalated somewhat. Below about 2200 m, the danger level is generally moderate, above that altitude it is considerable. The major hazard stems from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions. It is possible to trigger a slab avalanche even by minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. The frequency of danger zones increases with rising altitude. In isolated cases, avalanches can fracture in the deeper layers of the old snowpack and thereby attain larger size.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it has snowed throughout Tyrol. In the regions Arlberg/Ausserfern, Silvretta and along the Main Alpine Ridge there was 20 cm, in the remaining regions generally about 10 cm. The snowfall was accompanied by strong to stormy winds, southwesterly to start with, then shifting to northwesterly during the afternoon. The winds led to wide ranging new snowdrift accumulations forming. The snowpack below about 2200 m is quite stable, due to a surface crust. With increasing altitude, the firmness diminishes; moreover, the weak and trigger sensitive fundament requires great caution. The bonding of snowdrift to the old snowpack surface is also still quite inadequate.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather situation: in the wake of a cold front, a northwesterly current prevails today. On the northern flank of the Alps, a barrier effect with clouds lodged against the peaks initially; on the southern flank of the Alps, increasing northerly foehn winds, with more pleasant conditions arriving from the west. On Tuesday and Wednesday, a powerful high pressure system will dominate. Mountain weather today: somewhat variable conditions this morning including a few snow flurries with snowfall level at 900 to 1200 m. Over the course of the day, conditions will improve, sunshine appearing most swiftly in the upper Kaunertal, Ötztal and Pitztal into the Vinschgau. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will diminish somewhat.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe