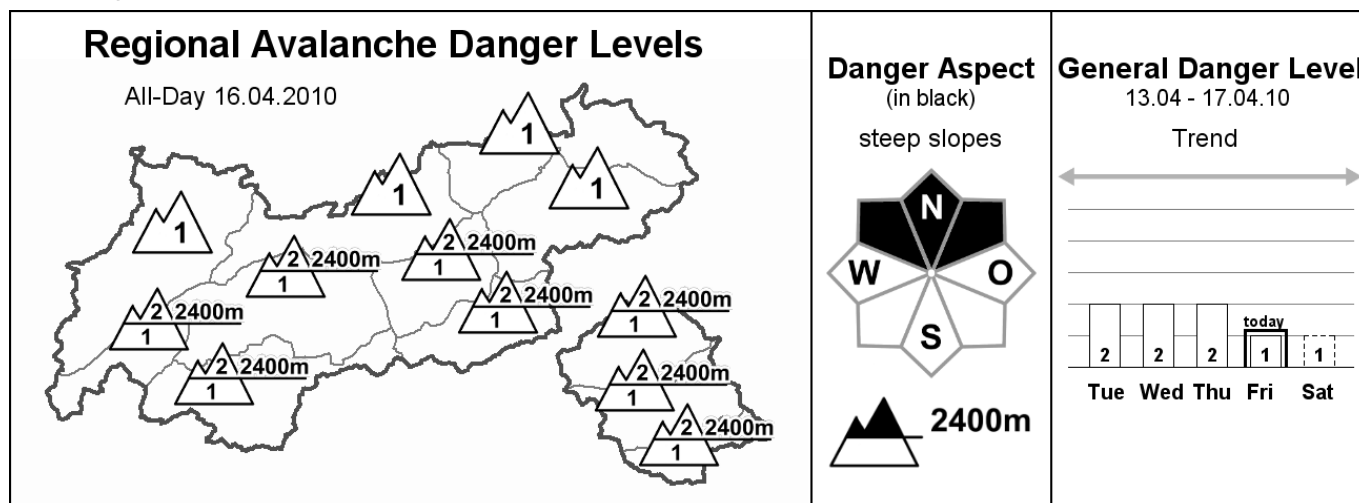


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 16.04.2010, at 07:30



Generally favourable backcountry touring conditions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation remains favourable widespread: from Arlberg-Ausserfern over the Northern Alps as far as the Kitzbühel Alps, the danger level is low in general. Further to the south above approximately 2400 m, the danger is moderate, below that altitude it is low. Caution is urged above approximately 2400 m, particularly on very steep northwest to north to northeast facing unfrequented slopes, where slab avalanches of medium size can be triggered by large additional loading. This is especially the case in transition areas from shallow to deep snow and in places with generally shallow snow. In the remaining expositions, conditions are favourable, only isolated, small sized loosely packed avalanches are expected today from craggy terrain. Triggering a slab avalanche there is possible only in exceptional cases, i.e. in extremely steep terrain above 2600 m with large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is now quite stable in its structure in northeast to south to northwest exposition, where marked melt freeze crusts are deeply embedded to lend the entire snow mass stability. On north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m, on the other hand, there is still a pronounced layer of depth hoar from mid-winter which could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. All avalanches which have been reported since the beginning of April are limited to north facing slopes and were caused by precisely this bed surface. On the uppermost surface there is currently loosely packed powder, in some places also a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads and in isolated spots a breakable crust.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Sunny weather conditions to begin with, below about 2200 m some high fog initially. By this afternoon, convective cloud will increase which can shroud some of the peaks. In isolated cases, showers are possible, the freezing level at midday will be at about 2000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 to minus 7 degrees. Light to moderate velocity northerly to northeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable touring conditions are expected to continue.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe