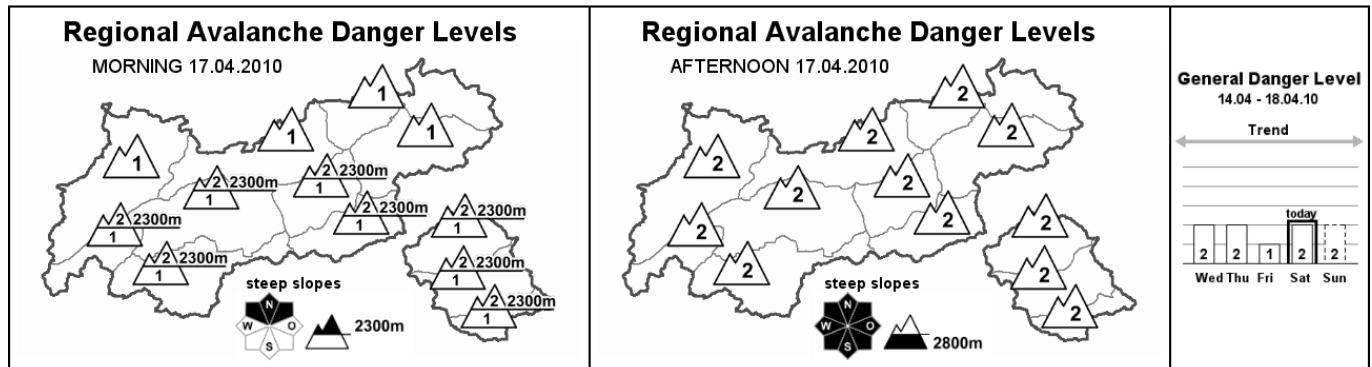


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 17.04.2010, at 07:30



Backcountry touring conditions predominantly favourable, amidst daytime increase of danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is increasingly subject to a daytime cycle. In the early morning hours, touring conditions are generally favourable. In northern regions, from Arlberg-Ausserfern over the Northern Alps to the Kitzbühel Alps, the danger level is low. Further to the south, the danger level depends on altitude: above 2300 m it is moderate, below that altitude it is low. As the snowpack becomes more and more moist, the danger increases over the course of the day to moderate, even at low altitudes. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on very steep northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above approximately 2300 m, where especially in unfrequented terrain avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading in particular. As solar (diffuse) radiation increases over the course of the day, triggerings are more possible, even by minimum additional loading. In the other expositions, i.e. from northeast to south to northwest, isolated wet snowslides are possible in extremely steep terrain. Large sized avalanches which fracture down in the lower layers of the snowpack are not yet to be expected, due to the stable middle structure of the snowpack.

SNOW LAYERING

In several regions of Tyrol, the skies were overcast during the night, while further to the south the skies were clear and full of stars. Consequently, the snowpack could not consolidate everywhere to the same degree. Especially at low and intermediate altitudes, the surface is moist already in the early morning hours. At high altitudes and in high alpine regions, on the other hand, there is a hard snow surface widespread. The major hazard still lies in the fragile snow layering on north facing slopes above approximately 2300 m, where over the last 2 weeks backcountry skiers and freeriders have repeatedly triggered slab avalanches from the loosely packed layer of depth hoar which formed in mid-winter. In the remaining expositions, often quite thick melt freeze crusts are embedded, which lend the snowpack stability. Above 2600 m more than anywhere else, a layer of depth hoar lies embedded beneath this melt freeze crust; however there is no danger today of it becoming a bed surface for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

During the morning hours, limited visibility in some regions due to residual clouds, which will change to convective cloud and clouds clinging to the mountain flanks and help the sun to gain dominance. This afternoon and this evening, scattered showers are possible south of the Main Alpine Ridge in particular. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly to southeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Conditions will slowly deteriorate as the air masses destabilise.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe