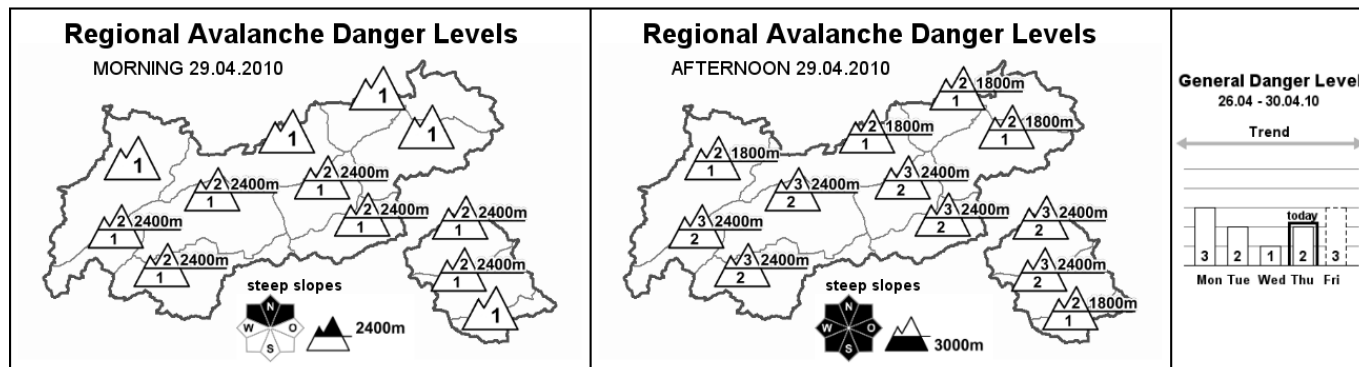


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 29.04.2010, at 07:30



Generally favourable touring conditions in early morning - Rising avalanche danger during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger depends on the time of day: until the late morning, favourable conditions prevail widespread, but the peril will rise thereafter, to begin with on east facing slopes, then in the other expositions. The hazards are generally low in the early part of the day except between 2400 and 3000 m, where it is moderate from the start. Danger zones are to be found on steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes, especially in transition areas from shallow to deep snow and in unfrequented places with little snow, where large additional loading can trigger medium sized avalanches. As the breakable crusts soften up, the snowpack will forfeit its overall firmness. The danger level can then climb from moderate to considerable in inneralpine regions between 2400 and 3000 m, isolated wet snow avalanches can then even be released by minimum additional loading in very steep terrain. Isolated wet snow avalanches, including of medium size, can also be triggered in this altitude zone. The breaking of cornices will become more frequent, which can, in turn, trigger avalanches. Tours should be brought to a close early in the day today, which also has the additional advantage of providing the best firm snow.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack consolidated sufficiently above 2000 m, the crust is generally capable of bearing loads in the early morning hours. Beneath the crust, the snowpack is generally wet, although on steep, high altitude, shady slopes it is still dry. Near the ground, particularly above approximately 2400 m, there is still a loosely packed fundament of depth hoar from mid-winter which presents a dangerous potential bed surface for slab avalanches, particularly on southwest to north to southeast slopes. In the Southern Alps, this layer has largely been dissolved by the encroaching wetness of the snowpack.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Very sunny weather for hikes and backcountry tours, the daytime warming cycle will be intense at all altitudes, the freezing level will reach 3500 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 4 to plus 10 degrees; at 3000 : plus 2 degrees. Light southwesterly winds, in foehn exposed regions the winds will be brisker.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Due to increasingly humid air, tourers should start early and go up high.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe