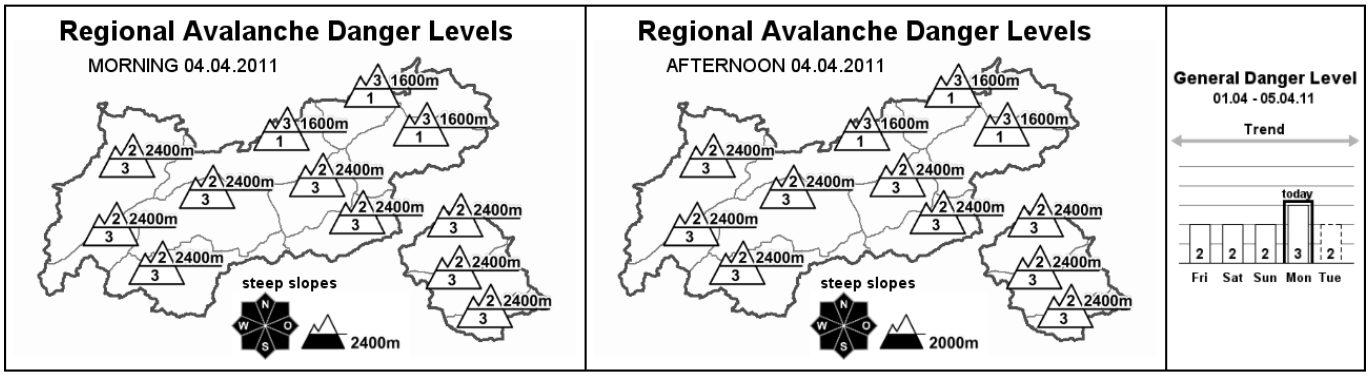
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 04.04.2011, at 07:30



Avalanches triggering below 2400 likelier today, due to rain

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is contingent on altitude and on a daytime warming cycle. Below about 2400 m, considerable danger prevails during the morning; above that altitude the danger level is moderate. Particularly due to the rainfall, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches are expected, increasingly they will be loose snow avalanches attaining medium size. Due to the small amounts of snow, exposed sections of transportation routes will be placed at risk only in very isolated cases. For backcountry touring, the conditions during the morning are unfavourable below 2400 m. In very steep terrain, wet snow avalanches and wet, loose snow avalanches can easily be triggered as the snowpack becomes wetter. As of late afternoon, the situation will improve as temperatures drop, naturally triggered avalanches will become less likely. Below about 1600 m, the danger is generally low, due to the lack of snow. In high alpine regions, small sized snowdrift accumulations will form which, particularly in shady areas adjacent to ridge lines, should be avoided.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last few days, the snowpack has become thoroughly wet up to higher than 3000 m on steep, sunny slopes. Last night below 2400 m, it was not able to consolidate sufficiently. Through the rainfall which is forecast, the snowpack will lose much of its remaining firmness, especially below about 2400 m; above that altitude, the solar radiation will have the same effect, especially in East Tyrol. In North Tyrol, the snowpack will consolidate somewhat as of late afternoon, due to lower temperatures.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a cold front over Switzerland will sweep across Tyrol today. Tomorrow, the high pressure system will reassert its influence. Mountain weather today: the cold front will bring a significant, but short-lived deterioration in weather conditions. Fog and heavy snow flurries are expected, the snowfall level will drop in the Northern Alps down towards 1400 m, on the southern flank of the Alps towards 1700 m. After the front has passed, there will be bright intervals south of the Main Alpine Ridge. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Moderate to strong westerly winds, shifting to northwesterly and slackening off after the front has passed.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Solar radiation will cause more frequent loose snow avalanches

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**