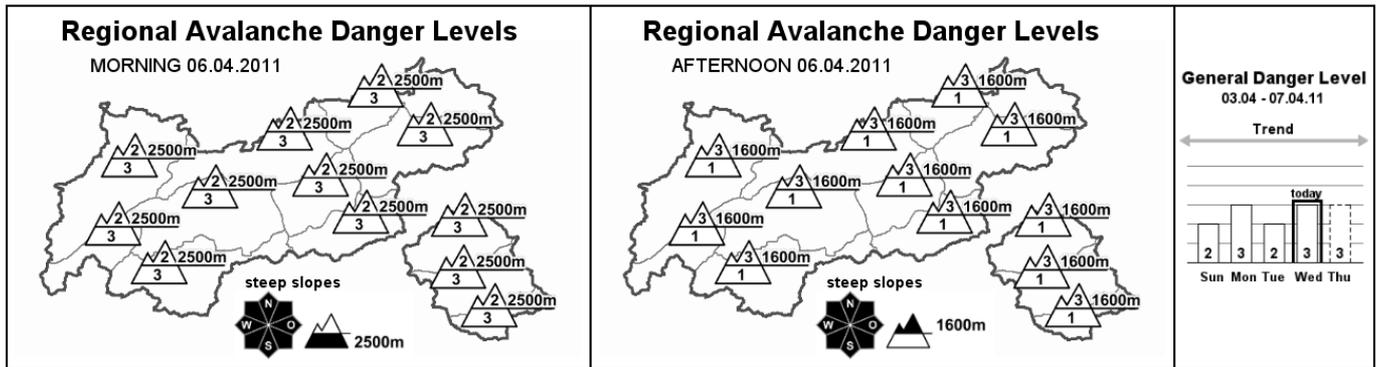


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 06.04.2011, at 07:30



Rapid rise in avalanche danger, peril of natural wet snow avalanches

AVALANCHE DANGER

Due to the predominantly cloudy night, there are generally unfavourable conditions below about 2500 m this morning, with considerable avalanche danger. The melt freeze crust which formed will swiftly soften up, the snowpack lose its firmness, and in corresponding measure, the danger of naturally triggered wet snow avalanches will escalate. This is particularly the case for west to north to east facing slopes below about 2500 m, where isolated slab avalanches will also be triggered. Above 2500 m, the danger level this morning is moderate. On shady, steep, high alpine slopes near ridge lines, caution is urged towards relatively small snowdrift masses which can often be released by minimum additional loading. This afternoon, the danger will increase to considerable also above 2500 m. Particularly on sunny, extremely steep slopes, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches are likely. Below 1600 m, the danger level is low, due to highly reduced snow depths.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack could not adequately consolidate last night; up to high altitudes, at most a brittle melt freeze crust was able to form. Below this crust, the snowpack up to about 2200 m in all expositions is either moist or wet. On sunny, steep slopes, this is the case up to about 3000 m. Due to today's warmth and solar radiation, the snowpack will rapidly lose much of its firmness. A potential bed surface for slab avalanches is evident between about 2400 and 2700 m on west to north to east facing slopes in the form of a layer of moist depth hoar; in high alpine regions on shady slopes directly adjacent to ridge lines is a layer of surface hoar which formed last week through the so-called Nigg effect.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high pressure system above western and central Europe prevails, a low is forming over Scandinavia which will move to eastern Europe by tomorrow, pushing the high towards the west. In the midst of this constellation are the Alps, in a northerly to northwesterly air current which will become more powerful over the next few days. Mountain weather today: cloudbanks sweep past the summits, only the highest will be shrouded temporarily. As of midday, increasingly sunny, the freezing level will climb towards 3000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: zero degrees. Brisk northerly to northwesterly winds at high altitudes, elsewhere the winds will be light to moderate.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Classic springtime conditions: favourable in the morning, daytime rise in avalanche danger

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe