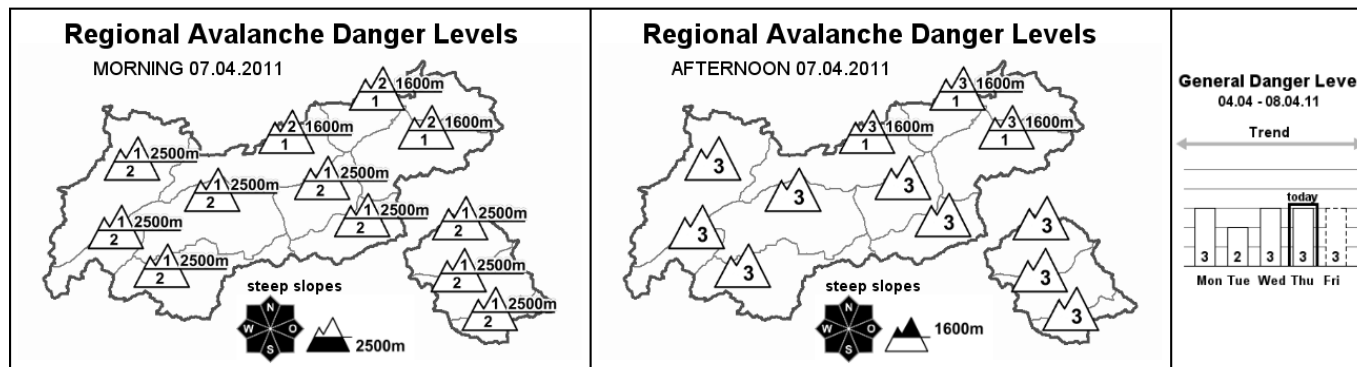


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 07.04.2011, at 07:30



Briefly, above 2500 m, favourable conditions, then swiftly rising danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level will increase to "considerable" as of late morning. Naturally triggered wet, loose snow avalanches are again likely to occur over 3000 m, most frequently on west to north to east facing slopes below 2800 m, in isolated cases also slab avalanches. As of late morning, the peril of triggering avalanches in the increasingly wet snowpack in steep terrain is acute. In the early morning hours, conditions are more favourable. Above 2500 m, the danger level is low, below that altitude it is moderate. However, as soon as the sun begins to warm the snowpack intensely, the danger rapidly escalates, initially on east facing slopes, then in other expositions as well. Wind can slow down the moistening process somewhat. Therefore: launch backcountry tours in the early morning, since from midday the danger is great. Below 1600 m, low danger generally prevails, due to the highly reduced snow depths.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack on shady slopes became moist or wet to over 3000 m yesterday. On sunny slopes, it is often thoroughly wet down to the ground. A melt-freeze crust forms overnight, but it is capable of bearing loads only above approximately 2500 m; at lower altitudes, the crust is brittle. A potential bed surface for slab avalanches is to be found on west to north to east facing slopes below about 2800 m: a partly moist fundament of depth hoar. The snowdrift masses deposited on top of this layer are generally not large sized, making inner tensions not far reaching. For that reason, more wet, loose snow avalanches are being observed currently.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high pressure system reigns over central and western Europe, flanked by a developing low over northeastern Europe which will temporarily bring cooler and moist air masses to Tyrol on Friday. On the weekend, the high will regain dominance and bring dry air masses. Mountain weather today: lots of sunshine and warmth, but increasingly windy, particularly at high altitudes. The freezing level will reach 3500 m by this afternoon. Sunny and windy on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 11 degrees; at 3000 m: plus 3 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds this morning, strengthening to brisk or strong velocity this afternoon in some places.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The rule remains: the earlier the tour, the better the conditions.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe