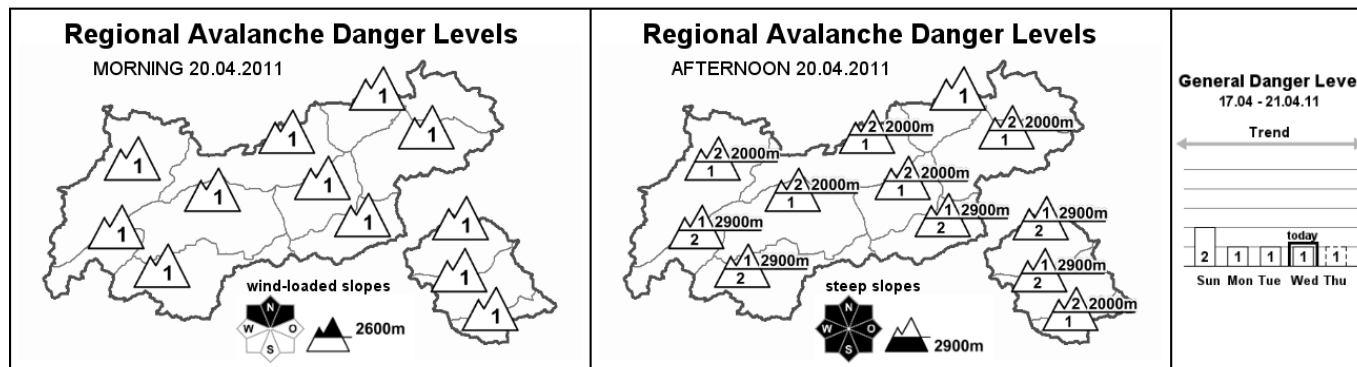


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 20.04.2011, at 07:30



Typical springtime situation: favourable conditions in morning, daytime rise in danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is generally low during the morning, rises to moderate in the afternoon between 2000 and 2900 m. Isolated avalanche prone locations in the morning are to be found on extremely steep, shady slopes, usually between about 2600 and 2800 m in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, where even slab avalanches can be triggered in transition areas from shallow to deep snow by large additional loading. In the afternoon, through the increasing moistness of the snowpack, which is sometimes thoroughly wet by then, caution is urged toward the state of the snowpack. On very steep to extremely steep slopes, particularly if sun-drenched, small sized, loose snow avalanches can be triggered by backcountry skiers and freeriders. In addition, the likelihood of avalanches triggering in shady, very steep terrain is also higher. Consequently, our advice: if you start early and go up high, you will be rewarded by safer conditions and top quality firm snow on sunny slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack consolidated well during a night of clear skies. The melt freeze crust is capable of bearing loads, although not to the same extent as in the last few days. That means the crust will soften up more quickly today. On shady slopes, the powder at high altitudes has often transformed to a breakable crust. All in all, the snowpack is quite dense. A potential bed surface for slab avalanches is likeliest on shady slopes between about 2600 and 2800 m: an old, predominantly moist layer of depth hoar.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a stable high pressure system has its core over western and central Europe. Although it can be expected to weaken somewhat over the next few days, it will dominate our weather until Easter Weekend. Mountain weather today: ongoingly attractive conditions. During the day, there will be lots of sunshine, a bit of convective cloud build-up this afternoon will not impair it in the slightest. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 to plus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 to minus 1 degree. Light to moderate southeasterly winds, often overlain with thermic winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The favourable avalanche situation will continue, including daytime rise in danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe