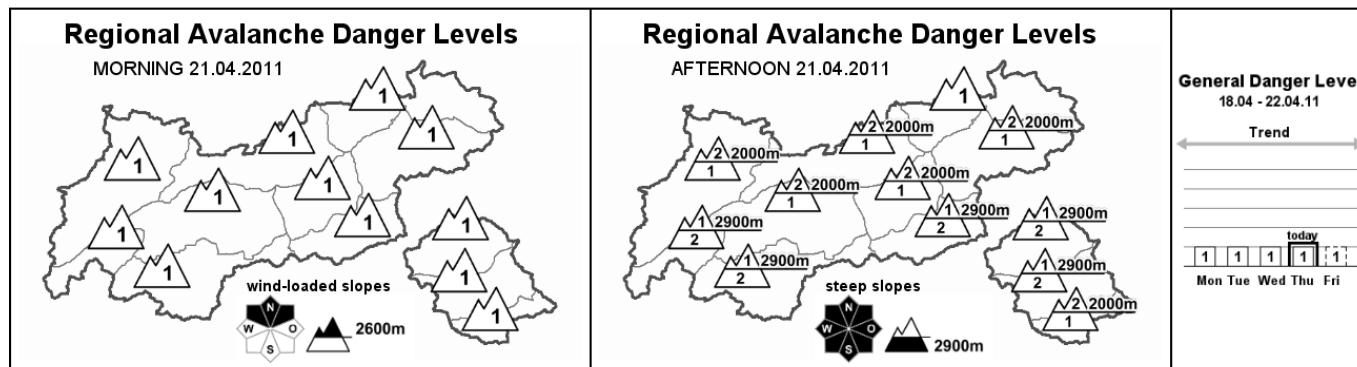


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 21.04.2011, at 07:30



Continuing favourable conditions in morning, rising danger during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is low in the morning, rising to moderate as of midday between about 2000 and 2900 m. Caution is urged towards the ever diminishing firmness of the snowpack during the day, beginning on steep, east facing slopes, then proceeding to south and west facing slopes. Wet, loose snow avalanches can then be triggered by skiers in steep terrain, once the snowpack is wet. Isolated slab avalanches can be fractured in the old snowpack as of midday in very steep, shady terrain between about 2600 and 2800 m, by large additional loading. In addition, a fracture in the snowpack at the borderline of the new fallen snow from mid-April is possible as of midday, since a layer of graupel is deposited at that place. All in all, as long as one departs soon enough, the conditions are perfect. Early starts are rewarded by ideal firm (corn snow).

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack was able to consolidate well overnight, the melt freeze crust which formed is capable of bearing loads widespread. The typical snow layering on sunny slopes is characterized by a moist-to-wet lower structure and a melt freeze crust up to 10 cm thick. At higher altitudes, the snow layering is very dense. Only on shady slopes, particularly between 2600 and 2800 m, is there an embedded layer of depth hoar which could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. Small patches of graupel are also present on shady slopes, which formed during the last snowfall from mid-April, and are poorly bonded with the masses of snow which fell at that time.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a wedge-shaped high pressure system extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the Alps and beyond, to the North Sea. This system will weaken only insignificantly over the next few days, it will dominate our weather until the weekend. Mountain weather today: the beautiful weather will continue, bringing lots of sunshine, amidst a bit of harmless convective cloud build-up over the Southern Alps in particular. In the Wipp Valley, the southerly foehn wind will be especially noticeable, elsewhere the winds will be light. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 to plus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 1 degree. Generally light southeasterly winds, in the Wipp Valley the winds will be of moderate strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The spring conditions will continue, including a daytime rise in danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe