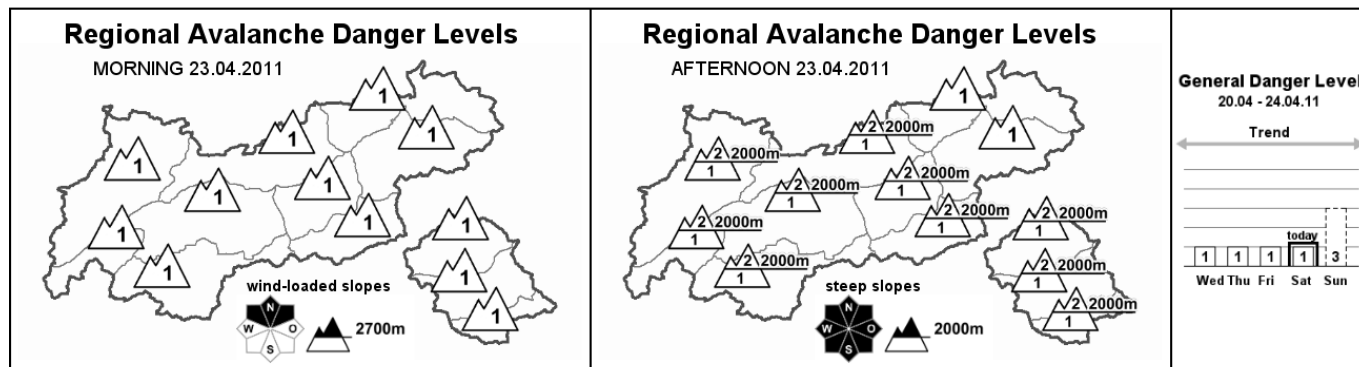


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 23.04.2011, at 07:30



Possibly the last perfect skiing day. Beware daytime rise in danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Classic spring conditions prevail: in the early morning, following yet another night of clear skies when the snowpack could consolidate adequately, the danger level is low. In late morning, the danger above 2000 m will rise to moderate. Wherever the snowpack is wet, snow avalanches of wet, loose snow can be triggered by backcountry skiers. Its degree of wetness is probably not sufficient to trigger natural avalanches today. In general, the convective cloud build-up will cause the snowpack to lose its firmness more quickly than in recent days. Thus, tours should be terminated in sufficient time.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is stable in the early morning, the melt freeze crust which formed during the night is capable of bearing loads. Beneath the crust, the snowpack, particularly on sunny slopes, is wet down to the ground. At greater altitudes, the snowpack is generally quite dense. Layers of depth hoar which could serve as bed surfaces for slab avalanches occur only in isolated cases, especially between about 2600 and 2800 m on very steep, shady slopes. If tours are launched sufficiently early, the firm snow which awaits is perfect. Where winds are stronger, the process of the snowpack becoming wet is slowed down.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: the influence of the high pressure system over Tyrol is weakening; a moderate southwesterly current is making the air masses less stable. At the same time, a small low has formed over Poland which will reach the Alps in a few days. Mountain weather today: to begin with, lots of sunshine, in the Southern Alps there are cloudbanks and the convective cloud build-up will begin earlier and be stronger than in the last few days. By this afternoon, high summits will be shrouded in cloud and isolated showers are possible, particularly in the Southern Alps. Freezing level is a 3000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: 9 degrees; at 3000 m: 1 degree. Moderate southerly winds; in foehn exposed areas the winds will reach brisk to strong velocity.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Following a night of overcast skies, the danger of avalanches will swiftly rise during the day.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe