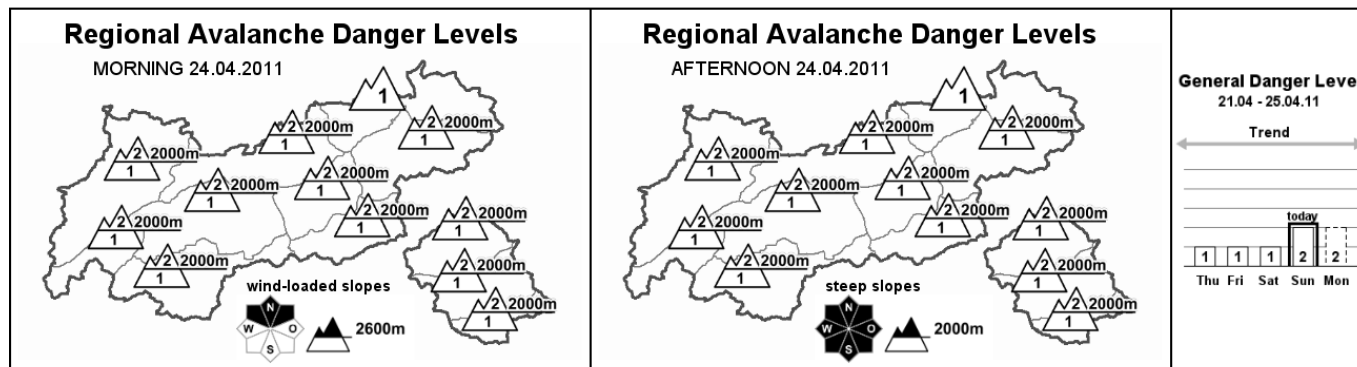


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 24.04.2011, at 07:30



Final regular avalanche bulletin of the season - Beware daytime rise in danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent both on altitude and on time of day. In the early morning hours below 2000 m, the danger level is low due to the lack of snow; between about 2000 and 2500 m the danger level is moderate; above 2500 m it is low. The danger level then swiftly rises over the course of the day to moderate widespread; however, as of midday can also reach Danger Level 3, "considerable", between about 2000 and 2800 m, particularly where sun shines through the cloud windows and creates diffuse light radiation, which in turn makes the snowpack wet more quickly and more thoroughly, causing it to lose its firmness. On extremely steep slopes, generally small sized wet snow avalanches can be naturally triggered. Thus, the rule of thumb for skiers and freeriders today is: only those who launch their tour early enough and go high enough will be rewarded with safe conditions and good firm snow.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack could not consolidate as well last night as in recent days, due to cloudy skies. Only above approximately 2500 m is the melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads. Below that altitude, the crust is often breakable and will soften up rapidly during the day, losing its firmness. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are seldom to be found, e.g. on very steep, shady slopes between about 2600 and 2800 m in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: moist, instable air masses are being fed to Tyrol from a low pressure system which has its center over the Iberian peninsula. In addition, a small low has formed over Poland which will move towards the Eastern Alps in the next few days. Mountain weather today: the air has become more moist and less stable. Besides cloudbanks, convective cloud will also build up quickly this morning. Along the Northern Limestone Alps, the first showers can be expected, this afternoon the likelihood of showers and thunderstorms will be heightened everywhere. The freezing level is 2700 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 degrees. Light winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The general rule for spring: following nights with clear skies and dry air, favourable conditions prevail in the early morning hours. Following cloudy nights which are warmer, even the early morning is dangerous. We extend a cordial debt of thanks to all friends, colleagues and skiers/freeriders for their valuable reports over the course of the winter.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe