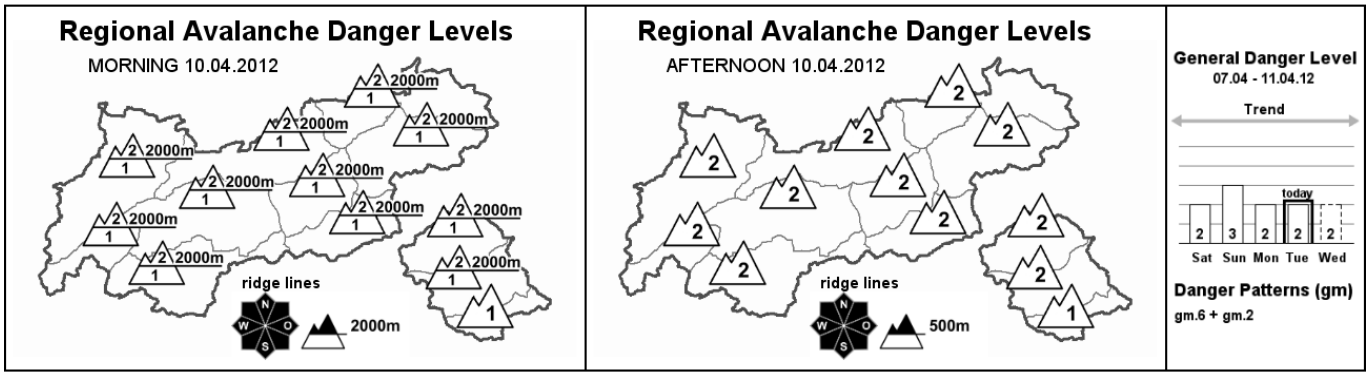
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 10.04.2012, at 07:30



Fresh snowdrift accumulations are the major peril

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger, still corresponding to altitude, is expected to increase slightly over the course of the day. During the morning, the danger level above approximately 2000 m is moderate, below that altitude it is low and will rise to moderate this afternoon. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are easily discernible in general. The frequency of the snowdrift accumulations, as well as their proneness to triggering, increase with ascending altitude. The least favourable conditions currently prevail in the high alpine regions along the Main Alpine Ridge. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in very steep ridgeline terrain in all aspects, as well as in very steep, drifted gullies and bowls. Over the course of the day, the snowpack at low and intermediate altitdues will become thoroughly wet. Isolated loosely packed avalanches can be expected in extremely steep, sunny terrain. On steep, grassy slopes, in addition, isolated full depth snowslides can release where glide cracks have formed in the snowpack.

SNOW LAYERING

The new fallen snow of recent days has settled and consolidated quite well since the temperatures rose steeply yesterday afternoon. Only at high altitudes are there still trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations which, at the borderline between the loosely packed fresh fallen snow and the wind-compacted drifted snow can release when disturbed in steep terrain by backcountry skiers and freeriders. Particularly in very steep, high alpine areas adjacent to ridgelines, even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger an avalanche. The thin, faceted layer at the point where old and new snow touch, referred to in yesterday's report, is no longer of significance, now that the snowpack has settled so well. On very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2300 m where the snow is shallow, there is a layer of depth hoar near the ground in some areas which could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The Alps lie at the forefront of a low pressure system over Scotland in a southwesterly air current which will supply foehn conditions to the northern flank of the Alps. On Wednesday, a cold front will follow on its heels, bringing precipitation and ending the foehn wind, moving from west to east. Mountain weather today: the foehn situation on the northern flank of the Alps will give rise to variable, sparse clouds above summit level. In the classic foehn-exposed regions, the wind will be stormy. On the Main Alpine Ridge and from the Ortler over the Sarntal Alps to the Dolomites, the mountains will be cloaked in cloud this afternoon. In the East Tirolean mountains more sunshine is expected, amidst high altitude cloud. Temperature at 2000 m: zero to plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 to minus 3 degreres. In foehn-exposed and high alpine regions, strong velocity southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche situation, the major danger continues to be snowdrift.

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