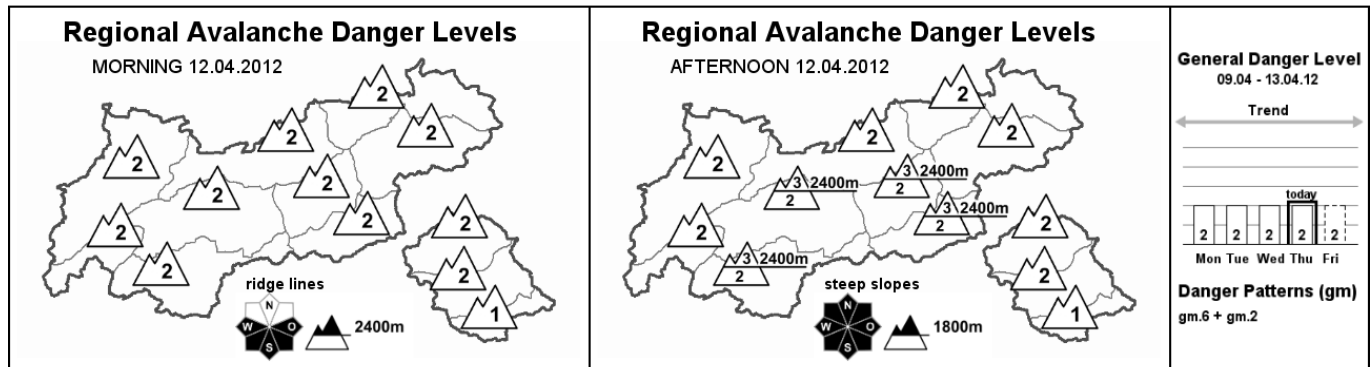


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 12.04.2012, at 07:30



Snowdrift accumulations in steep ridgeline areas, loosely packed avalanches on steep, sunny slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is moderate widespread and over 2400 m is expected to increase to considerable during the day today, due to the intensifying winds in foehn corridors which were forecast, particularly in the Tux, Zillertal and Stubai Alps. Caution is urged especially towards fresh snowdrift accumulations which occur frequently on east to south to west facing ridgeline slopes above approximately 2400 m, subsequently this afternoon as the wind shifts to southerly also on shady slopes. In addition, above approximately 3000 m caution is still urged towards the drifted snow masses which formed at the beginning of this week and have now been blanketed over by new fallen snow. Under normal circumstances, these somewhat older, usually not deep snowdrift masses can be triggered only by large additional loading. Due to solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle, furthermore, numerous small sized, loosely packed snow avalanches can be expected throughout Tirol today on extremely steep, sun-bathed slopes. In isolated cases, full depth snowslides may also release on steep, grassy slopes, especially where glide cracks have appeared in the snowpack.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10 to 20 cm of snowfall widespread in Tirol; in the Tux, Stubai and Zillertal Alps there was as much as 30 cm of new fallen snow. The wind was blowing at irregular velocities, but usually strong enough to transport the fresh snow, thus giving rise to new snowdrift accumulations. With ascending altitude, the proneness to triggering of these masses increases. A potential bed surface is the borderline where the loosely packed new fallen and drifted snow meet. The snowpack will become thoroughly wet during the day today, thereby losing its firmness at low and intermediate altitudes, as well as on sun-drenched slopes

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Now that the weather perturbation has passed, drier air masses will move across Tirol today in a weak southwesterly airstream. As of Friday, a low pressure system over the Mediterranean will dominate, bringing moist air to the Alps over the weekend. Mountain weather today: sunny from the very start in most high alpine regions; increasingly so over the course of the morning towards the Kitzbühel Alps. On the northern flank of the Alps, quite windy. This afternoon, dense cloudbanks will move in from the west. Tonight, light snow flurries south and west of the Brenner, bringing maximum 5 cm of new fallen snow. Temperature at 2000 m: as high as plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds, in foehn exposed regions and the Tux Alps winds will be stronger, slackening off tonight.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowdrift accumulations near ridgelines continue to be the major hazard

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe