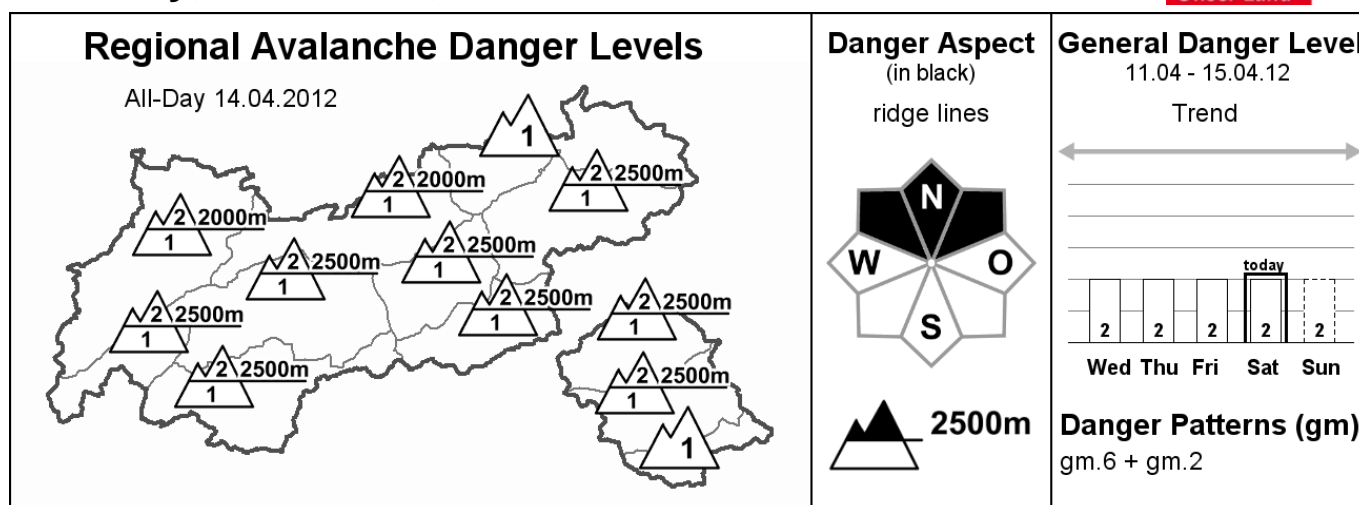


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 14.04.2012, at 07:30



Caution urged towards recent snowdrift above 2500 m in steep ridgeline terrain

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level remains contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2500 m the danger is moderate, below that altitude generally low. Only in the Arlberg-Ausserfern region and in the western part of the Northern Alps is the avalanche level above approximately 2000 m moderate, below that altitude low, due to the likelihood of full depth snowslides. Apart from isolated full depth snowslides which can be released on steep, grassy meadows where glide cracks have appeared in the snowpack, recently formed snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2500 m also require special attentiveness today. These drifted snow masses are usually small sized, occur most frequently in steep terrain near ridgelines and can be triggered primarily by large additional loading. Both their frequency and their proneness to triggering increase with ascending altitude. This is especially the case above approximately 2500 m, to begin with especially on very steep slopes near ridgelines in northwestern to northern to northeastern aspects, above 3000 m also in other aspects.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is either moist or thoroughly wet down to the ground, but is not easily triggered. The upper layers are quite compact. Weak layers are rare. Only on very steep, seldom trafficked, shady slopes where the snow is shallow is there depth hoar which could serve as a potential bed surface for slab avalanches. In high alpine regions, there is still depth hoar from autumn, which is unlikely to trigger. Fresh snowdrift where it meets the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it, especially at high altitudes, is inadequately bonded.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A far reaching low pressure system is supplying southern Europe and the Alps with moist air masses. The core of this weather system will shift from the Adriatic Sea towards the Balkan peninsula by tomorrow, the air will become wetter, but remain relatively mild. On Monday, colder air masses from the north will move in. Mountain weather today: cloudy conditions with dense, multi-layered cloud, poor visibility. Very little chance for bright intervals in North Tyrol. Light snowfall is possible everywhere, but the amounts will remain small. On the southern flank of the Alps, the fog may disperse somewhat. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Light to moderate easterly to northeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the situation. Snowdrift accumulations remain trigger sensitive at high altitudes

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe