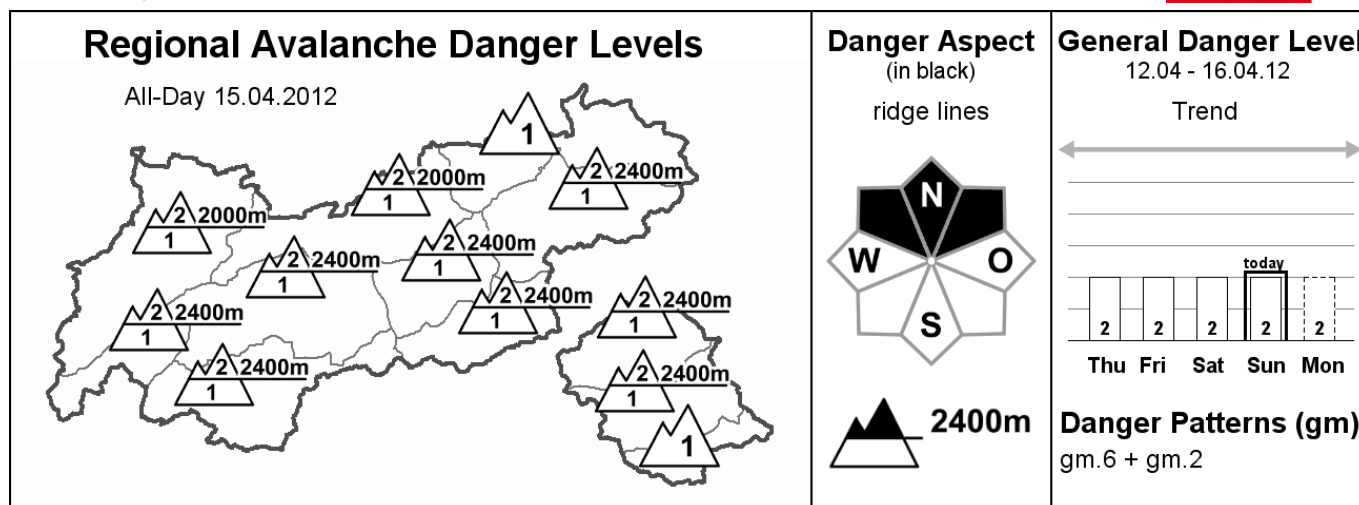


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 15.04.2012, at 07:30



Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift near ridgelines above 2400 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level corresponds to altitude. Above approximately 2400 m the level is moderate, below that altitude, it is low. Avalanche prone locations are limited to recently formed snowdrift accumulations in very steep terrain near ridgelines above approximately 2400 m. These drifted masses are usually small, but their frequency and proneness to triggering increase with ascending altitude and also will rise over the course of the day as the wind strength intensifies. Due to the poor visibility which is forecast, these danger zones will be difficult to recognize. In isolated cases, full depth snowslides can release on steep, grassy slopes, especially where glide cracks appear in the snowpack. In Ausserfern and the western part of the Northern Alps, the danger of full depth snowslides is higher, which is the reason the borderline between moderate and low danger is at 2000 m in those regions.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is moist or thoroughly wet, yet quite stable. At higher altitudes, there are hardly any weak layers inside the snowpack; only on very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2300 m where the snow is shallow are there small patches of depth hoar which could serve as a bed surface for the recently formed snowdrift accumulations. In general, however, the snowdrift fractures at the dividing line between the loosely packed new fallen snow and the drifted snow which is deposited on top of it. With ascending altitude, the trigger sensitivity increases. Freshly drifted masses above approximately 2400 m are becoming increasingly prone to triggering, to begin with in very steep, shady terrain above approximately 2800 m, later in the other aspects as well.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low pressure system centered over the Balkan peninsula and extending over large parts of southern Europe still dominates. At the same time, cold air is flowing towards the Alps from the north. Moist air is moving around the low and remaining caught in the Alps. By tomorrow, the cold air will move closer to the Alps from the west. Mountain weather today: another day of fog, accompanied by a few snowflakes, but only locally. This afternoon, somewhat more snowfall in North Tyrol. The Southern Alps are also shrouded, local snow flurries can be expected this afternoon. However, no more than 5 to 10 cm of new fallen snow is expected by Monday morning. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New snowdrift will accumulate due to the cold front, which still is the major peril for backcountry skiers and freeriders

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe