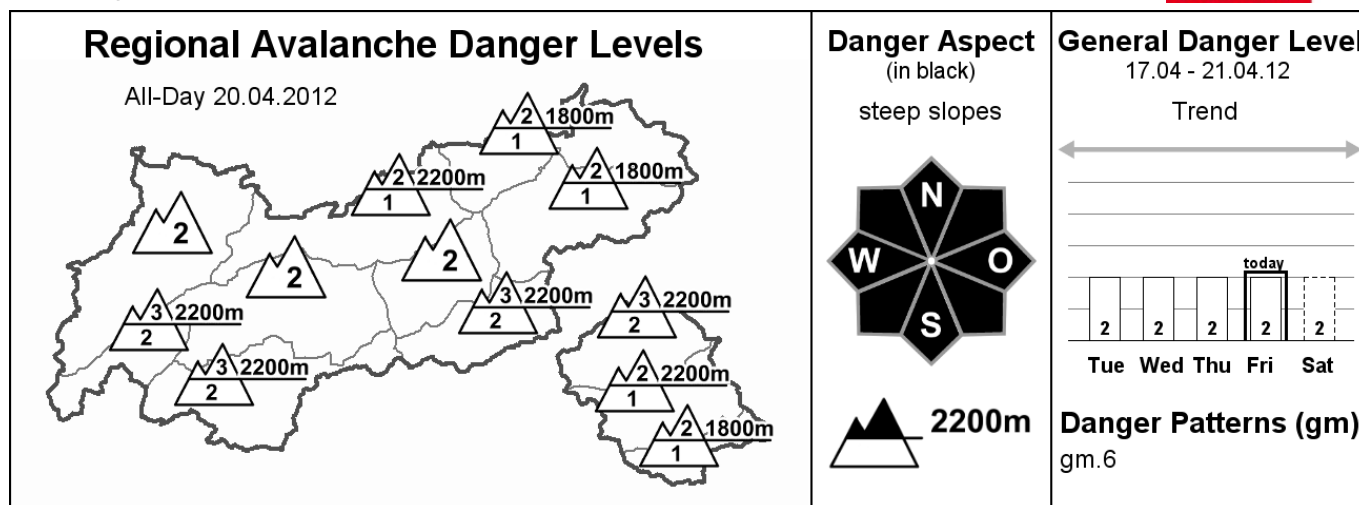


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 20.04.2012, at 07:30



Slightly increasing avalanche danger due to snowfall

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tirol's backcountry touring regions has escalated somewhat, but is still moderate in general. The situation along the Main Alpine Ridge is less favourable, the danger level is considerable in some places. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. The primary hazard stems from fresh layers of snowdrift and new fallen snow which in some places can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In steep starting zones, in addition, isolated naturally triggered, superficial, loosely packed snow avalanches are possible and require caution

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been a small amount of snowfall in isolated spots of North Tirol. The snowpack is thoroughly wet up to intermediate altitudes. In high alpine regions, the snowpack surface is highly irregular: drifted snow alternates with loosely packed fresh fallen snow, in some areas the surface is hard compacted or has a breakable crust. Newly fallen and newly drifted snow often blanket a well settled and stable old snowpack. However, caution is urged: the dividing line between the loosely packed new fallen snow and the snowdrift which has just been deposited on top of it is generally poor. Snowdrift accumulations can thus be triggered with relative ease.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies at the forefront of a low pressure system, caught in moist, unstable air masses. On Saturday, an interim high will exercise brief influence. On Sunday, a cold front will move in. Mountain weather today: unstable conditions in Tirol's mountains, accompanied by poor visibility, dry intervals and intermittent snow showers down to below 1300 m. In the Central Alps, about 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Moderate westerly to southwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Moderate avalanche danger far and wide

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe