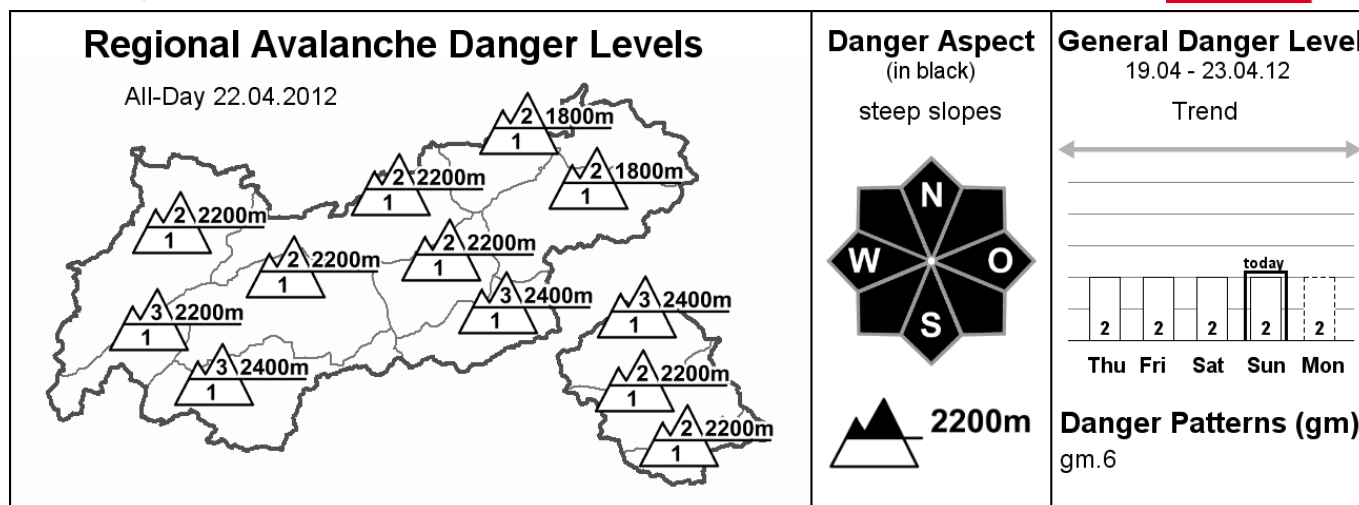


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 22.04.2012, at 07:30



Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is predominantly moderate; in the high alpine regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, it is considerable. Most of all the layers of new fallen and newly drifted snow of the last few days are prone to triggering and can in some places be released as avalanches even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. In isolated cases, even naturally triggered avalanches are possible: above approximately 2000 m, loosely packed snow avalanches; below 2000 m, wet snow avalanches

SNOW LAYERING

Last night in Northern Tirol and along the East Tirolean Tauern Ridge above approximately 1200 m there was a small amount of snowfall. High altitude southwesterly winds were brisk, in foehn exposed lanes they even reached storm strength, thus transporting snow again in high alpine regions in particular. Fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow from this last week generally blanket a well settled and stable old snowpack. The major peril lies at the dividing line between cold, dry, new fallen snow and the snowdrift which was deposited on top of it: the bonding is weak, making it highly trigger sensitive, which was amply demonstrated by several avalanches yesterday.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low pressure system with its core over the North Sea will push a cold front across Tirol today, in the wake of which variable, showery conditions will arrive this afternoon. On Monday, an interim improvement is expected; on Tuesday, another perturbation will arrive. Mountain weather today: snow showers will pass through, with their focal point gradually shifting to the Main Alpine Ridge and the southern flank of the Alps, where they will become heavier. From the northwest, weather improvement this afternoon. Despite bright intervals and some sunshine, however, the tendency towards showers will persist. Snowfall level at 1200 to 1500 m. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Strong westerly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Moderate avalanche danger far and wide

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe