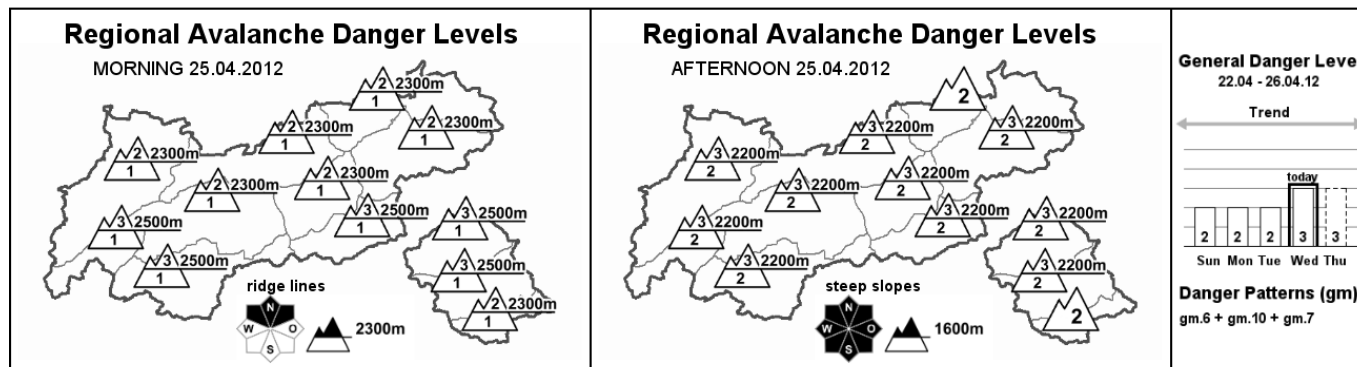


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 25.04.2012, at 07:30



Numerous loosely packed avalanches; beware fresh snowdrift near ridgelines

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m, considerable danger prevails; between about 2500 and 2300 m, the danger level is moderate; below 2300 m it is low. In the remaining regions, the danger level above approximately 2300 m is moderate, below that altitude it is low. However, the danger level is expected to rise in step with the daytime warming cycle and solar radiation this morning, increasing it to considerable above 2200 m, moderate below that. We expect numerous, predominantly small sized loosely packed snow avalanches along the Main Alpine Ridge from extremely steep, sunny slopes. In isolated cases, naturally triggered slab avalanches may release in sunny terrain near ridgelines. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, especially near ridgelines above approximately 2300 m, which can be released even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are easily discernible with some experience.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it has snowed once again, mostly between 10 and 20 cm, in the Main Alpine Ridge regions as much as 35 cm from place to place. High altitude winds caused transport in all aspects, since the wind direction shifted from southerly to northwesterly, creating drifts which are especially hazardous in ridgeline areas above 2300 m. With ascending altitude, the likelihood of avalanches triggering increases; especially perilous is the place inside the snowpack where the snowdrift meets the loosely packed new fallen snow. In isolated cases on steep, shady slopes above approximately 2300 m in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge where the snow is shallow, there is a layer of depth hoar near the ground which could be triggered by large additional loading. The wind at high altitudes can slow down the moistening of the snowpack.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies at the forefront of a powerful low pressure system over the British Isles, in the path of warm, dry, southwesterly air flow today and over the coming days. Mountain weather today: In the foehn lanes, strong winds will set in. Elsewhere, sunshine and a bit of convective cloud will dominate, with little tendency towards showers. Temperatures will rise at all altitudes. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Moderate westerly winds, shifting to southwesterly during the day and intensifying.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The snowpack will become increasingly wet and forfeit more of its firmness. The avalanche danger will increase significantly during the day.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe