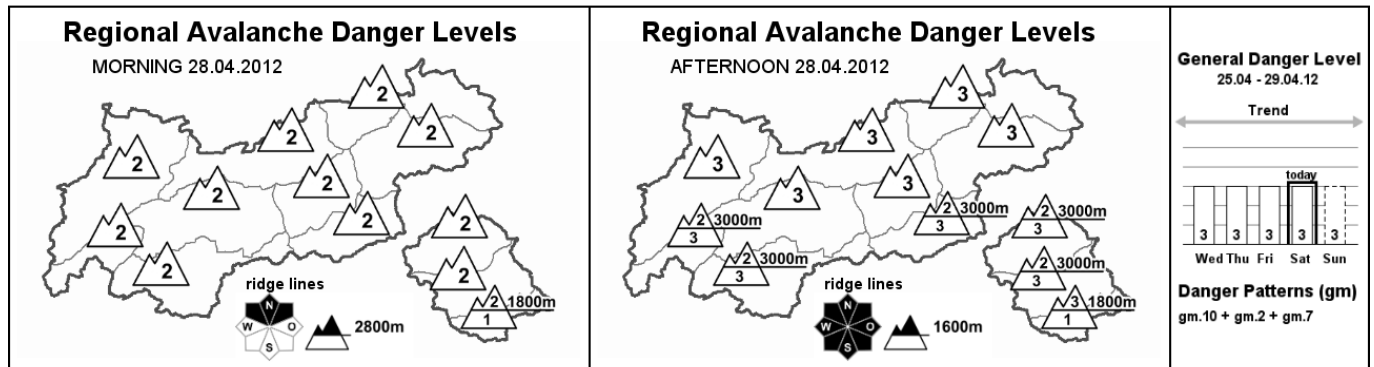


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 28.04.2012, at 07:30



Swiftly rising avalanche danger again. Terminate tours early.

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is again today subject to a marked daytime cycle. In the early morning hours, the danger is moderate, then rapidly rises to "considerable" as the snowpack becomes thoroughly wet below 3000 m. Besides recently formed snowdrift accumulations in very steep ridgeline areas above approximately 2800 m, increasingly frequent wet snow avalanches also require high attentiveness. Wet, loosely packed snow avalanches are expected on extremely steep, sunny slopes. Loosely packed snow avalanches can also sweep along more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack today and thereby reach medium size. Further, full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes also demand high attention, especially where there are glide cracks in the snowpack surface. Additional danger zones are very steep terrain between about 2300 and 2600 m. Increasingly frequent slab avalanches in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge where the snow is shallow can trigger down to the ground on shady slopes, in other aspects the uppermost layers of the snowpack. In early afternoon, triggering such avalanches still requires large, later on only minimum, additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

The moist or wet snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes and on all steep, sunny slopes, was able to consolidate well overnight, at least on the surface. Elsewhere a thin, breakable crust formed. The dominant factor today will be the rapid moistening of the snowpack, causing it to quickly lose its firmness. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are currently to be found between about 2300 and 2600 m: a thin, faceted layer atop a melt freeze crust; and a layer of depth hoar near the ground on very steep, shady slopes where the snow is shallow. The strong winds will slow down the moistening process somewhat, thus decelerating the rising danger.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: As the low pressure system above western Europe draws nearer, the southerly airstream over the Alps will strengthen. It is very warm. In the early part of the night tonight, the southerly air current will weaken, conditions will become less stable as the pressure disparities diminish and temperatures drop. Mountain weather today: generally sunny weather amidst harmless clouds and, on the Main Alpine Ridge, foehn clouds. Visibility will be somewhat impaired by the Sahara sand in the air. Winds will increase. Temperature at 2000 m: 9 to 14 degrees; at 3000 m: 6 degrees. The southerly wind will intensify in strength over the course of the day, in exposed areas it will be stormy, potentially even reach gale strength tonight.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in situation, ongoing springtime conditions with marked daytime rise in avalanche danger

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe