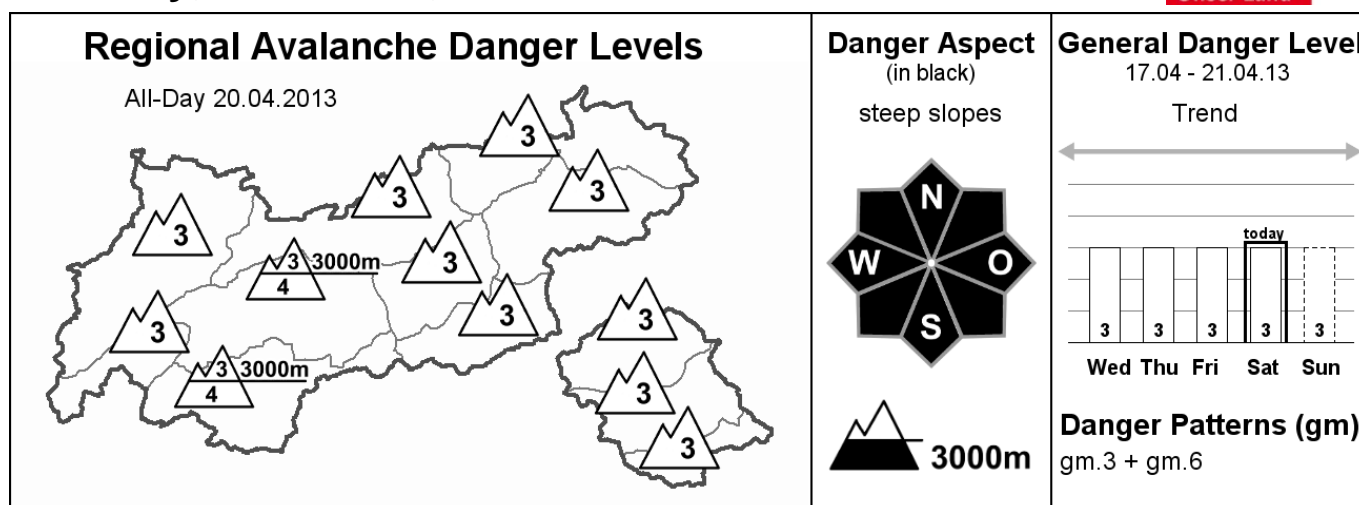


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 20.04.2013, at 07:30



Critical situation: high avalanche danger is some places!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Critical conditions prevail in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, the danger level is considerable widespread and in some places high. Two scenarios threaten: above approximately 3000m snowdrift and new fallen snow can be triggered as a dry avalanche with relative ease. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in ridgeline areas of all aspects, in isolated cases naturally triggered superficial avalanches are possible. Below about 3000m numerous naturally triggered avalanches can be expected which can sweep along the thoroughly wet old snow cover and thus attain large size. Thus, some exposed transportation routes can be placed at risk. The touring possibilities are greatly reduced and demand a high degree of experience in evaluating avalanche hazards.

SNOW LAYERING

The forecasted cold front brought heavy precipitation in some places, the snowfall level dropping further during the course of the night. In the northern and southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps there was 20 to 40 cm of fresh fallen snow, in the Silvretta 20 to 30 cm, in the Tux and Zillertal Alps 15 to 20 cm. In the Arlberg/Ausserfern regions and along the Northern Alps and in the Kitzbühel Alps there was 5 to 15 cm of snowfall. In East Tyrol on the Tauern Ridge there was 10 cm, further to the south only a few centimeters. Mostly in high alpine regions the wind was well over transport strength, thus new snowdrift masses accumulated. Both new fallen and drifted snow now bury a thoroughly wet old snowpack, i.e. on sunny slopes below about 3200m, on shady slopes below about 2600m.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A cold front has brought very cool air masses to Tyrol. From a low over Genoa, quite moist and incrementally milder air is being supplied to Tyrol from the south. Mountain weather today: wintery conditions, wind and snowfall tapering off by midday, light snowfall persisting along and south of the Main Ridge this afternoon. In northern regions the situation will improve this afternoon, the temperatures rise. Generally foggy or overcast today, no great improvement in visibility. Temperature at 2000m: rising from minus 5 to plus 1 degree; at 3000m: this afternoon minus 4 degrees. Moderate to brisk southeasterly to easterly winds, stronger in the Tux Alps.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede only slowly

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe