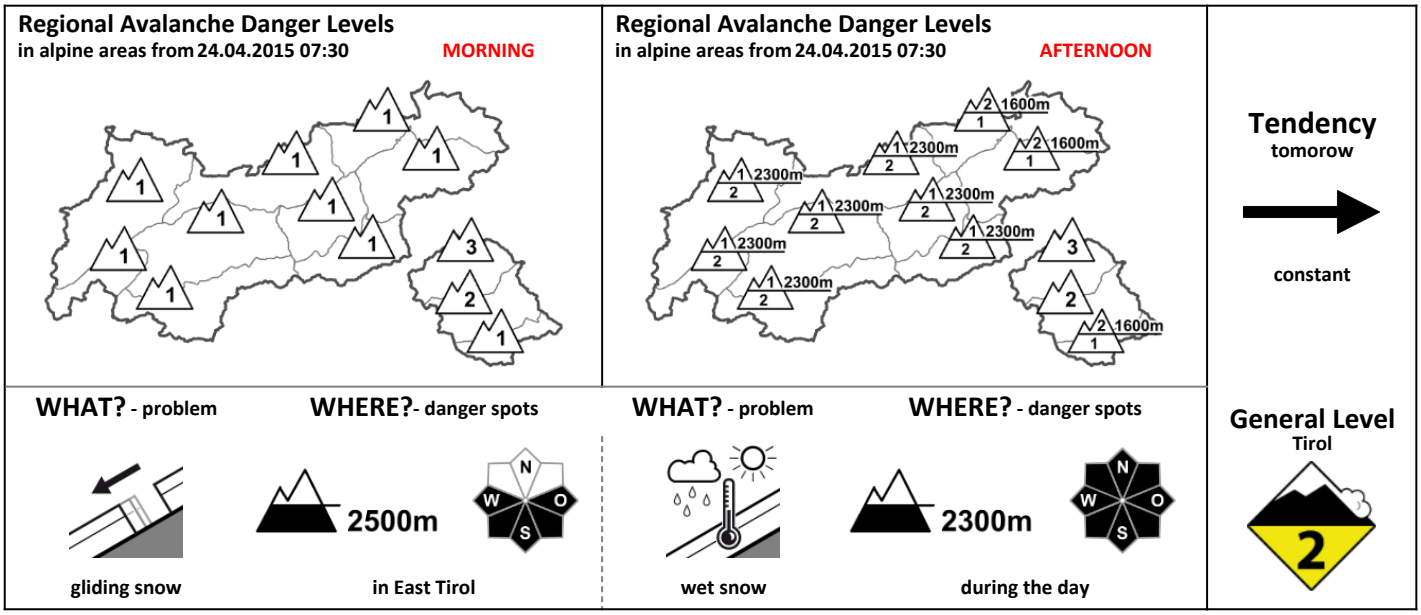
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Friday, 24.04.2015, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.2 - gliding snow dp.10 - springtime szenario dp.6 - loose snow and wind

Heavy snowfall in East Tirolean Tauern - Caution: gliding and loose-snow avalanches

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the East Tirolean Tauern, considerable avalanche danger prevails for a short spell below approximately 2500 m; above 2500 m danger is moderate. The major peril stems from gliding avalanches on steep, grass-covered slopes. Gliding avalanches will be frequent wherever the massive snowfall (sometimes over 50 cm) fell on bare grassy slopes. During the day, as soon as the sun makes itself felt and temperatures rise, additional loose-snow avalanches will release frequently on extremely steep slopes, mostly small sized. In high alpine regions, in addition, snowdrifts in very steep ridgeline terrain require caution. In the other parts of Tirol conditions are far better: low danger by and large, increasing somewhat below 2300m during the course of the day. Where the melt-freeze crust softens and deteriorates, isolated wet-snow avalanches can release in very steep terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

In the East Tirolean Tauern there has been about 50 cm of snowfall since yesterday afternoon, at high altitudes as much as 75 cm. To begin with the snowfall was accompanied by strong winds, subsequently winds slackened off. Bed surfaces for potential slab avalanches are currently found, if at all, inside the fresh fallen snow masses. Caution in wind-exposed terrain, where relatively loosely-packed new fallen snow has been blanketed by drifts (the problem occurs only at high altitudes). Fractures in the old snowpack are being registered in the East Tirolean Tauern on shady slopes at altitudes of about 2200 m, due to the snowfall. At high altitudes there is a melt-freeze crust beneath the fresh fallen snow which is deep and has a stabilising effect.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The small high/low over the Eastern Alps is withdrawing. It brought snowfall extending down to the high-valley floors yesterday, most of it between Zillertal Alps and East Tirol. Dry air masses will now replace this front and conditions will improve. On the weekend, foehn-induced weather in a SW air current. Mountain weather today: good mountain weather. In western regions, sunshine and good visibility. Residual cloud will persist well into the morning, especially in the Zillertal Alps and in East Tirol, but the snowfall is over. This afternoon, sunshine. Temperature at 2000m, -1 to +4 degrees; at 3000m, -8 to -3 degrees. Moderate NW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Following a night of clear skies, conditions in the East Tirolean Tauern will improve noticeably.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**