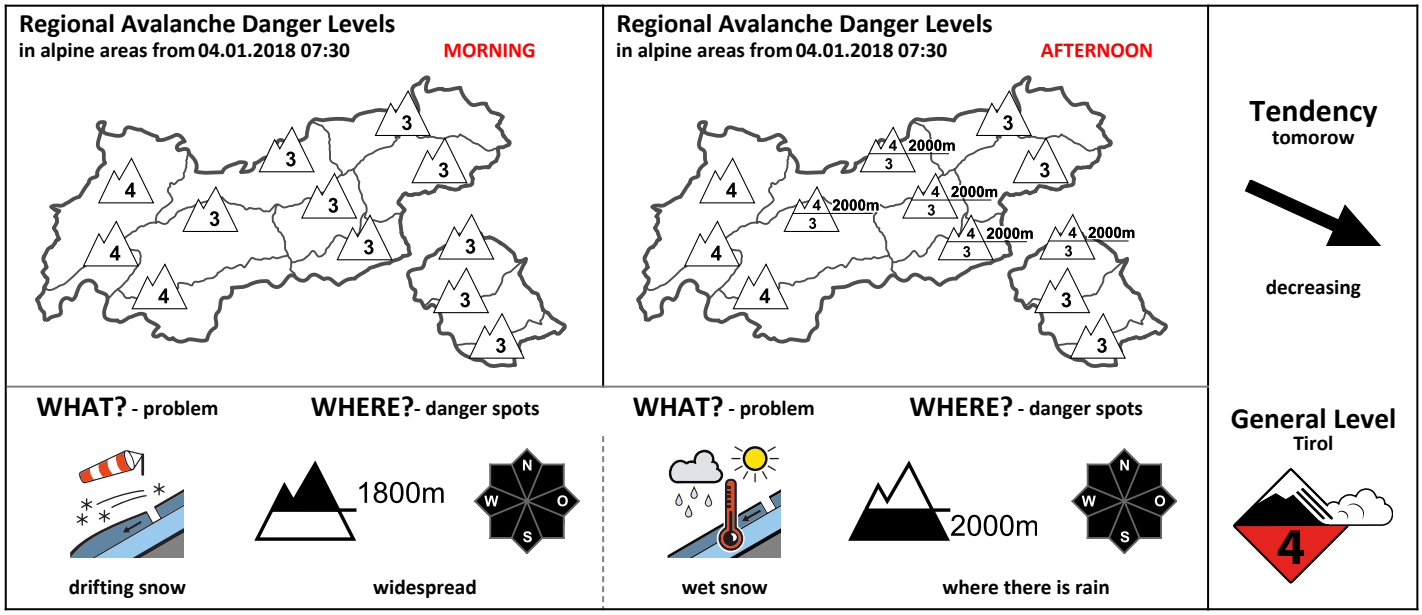
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Thursday, 04.01.2018, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.6 - loose snow and wind, dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer, dp.3 - rain

High avalanche danger in western regions. Treacherous situation widespread!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Snowfall, rainfall, wind, rising temperatures have increased avalanche danger in western regions to high. In the other regions, a critical level 3 prevails, and the danger could rise to high in some regions this afternoon. The snowfall (up to 50 cm in western regions) and rainfall below 2000 m will spur many naturally triggered avalanches of medium size, some in western regions reaching large size. Avalanches can fracture down to deeply embedded layers of the snowpack in all aspects: in sunny terrain above 2300 m, especially above 2800 m; in shady terrain above 2400 m. Naturally triggered avalanches can also release at low altitudes. Furthermore, the rain will stimulate superficial wet-snow avalanches, also gliding avalanches. In the other regions of Tirol, the rising rainfall level, plus fresh snow, plus wind will create isolated naturally triggered avalanches as well, but these will not grow to be as large. All in all, a truly treacherous situation. The inexperienced are urgently advised to stay on secured ski runs.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 48 hours there has been 50-75 cm of fresh snow registered in western regions of Tirol, amidst storm winds. In the other regions of North Tirol, and in the East Tirolean Tauern, there was generally 20-30 cm. Today in western regions, another 30-50 cm is anticipated, in the other regions 15-20 cm. It will be deposited amidst high NW/W/SW wind influence . In addition, temperatures will rise significantly. Snowfall at low and intermediate altitudes will turn to rainfall. The rising temperatures will immensely deteriorate and weaken the snowpack. Weak layers for slab avalanches are found near the uppermost surface in the form of cold, blanketed powder snow including graupel; and more deeply embedded layers of old snow in the form of faceted crystals. Both weak layers require large additional loading to release; this will occur today all by itself in many places.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

On both flanks of the Alps it will be gloomy all day, wet and stormy. Visibility is severely reduced by fog and cloud. On the northern rim of the Alps the snowfall level will rise from 1000 to 2000 m. In inneralpine regions persistent snowfall is expected down to low lying areas. Most of the snowfall is expected at high altitude in the Paznaun to Arlberg regions, as far as the Lechtal Alps. Immense snow transport. Temperature at 2000 m: 0 degrees at midday; at 3000 m -5 degrees at midday. Storm to gale-strength westerly winds, in high alpine regions hurricane-force winds exceeding 100 km/hr from the northwest are possible.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Today is the high point of avalanche activity. Tomorrow the situation will slowly improve.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**