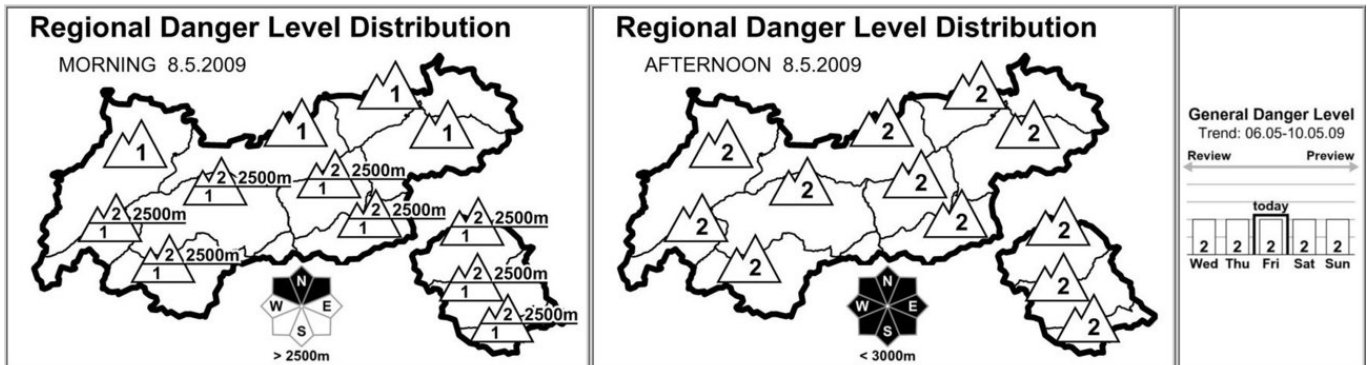


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 08.05.2009, at 07:30



LAST AVALANCHE BULLETIN OF THE SEASON, ACCORDING TO PRESENT EXPECTATIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

Typical of springtime, the avalanche danger is again contingent upon time of day and altitude. Below about 2500 m, generally low danger prevails in the morning hours; above that altitude the danger is moderate. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders are to be found in extremely steep terrain in northwestern to northern to northeastern expositions above approximately 2500 m and in very steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 3000 m, where slab avalanches, particularly in transitions from shallow to deep snow, can be triggered by large additional loading and near ridge lines even by minimum additional loading. Fracturing cornices can also unleash avalanches. The solar radiation and daytime warming cycle softens the melt-freeze crust over the course of the day, helping the snowpack to lose its stable firmness. The hazards then increase to moderate everywhere. Isolated wet slides are also possible, particularly on steep hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is withdrawing more and more. Nonetheless there are still above average amounts of snow for the season, particularly at higher altitudes. The snowpack up to 2500 m in all expositions (and higher on steep, sunny slopes) is moist or wet. It firmed up well during the night. Moreover, the old snowpack with the layer of graupel from 10 days ago has now consolidated. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are to be found in isolated spots at high altitudes, where treacherous surface hoar is a peril, particularly on shady slopes near ridge lines. The loose, faceted layer from mid-January which is now rippled with melt-freeze layers could also be a hazard above 2500 m, especially on west to north to east facing slopes, and particularly if these spots become wet at ground level. Permit us to issue a great debt of thanks to all those who have supported us so competently throughout the winter season.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: some sunshine, but mountain weather conditions are significantly less stable than yesterday. Convective cloud can form rapidly over the course of the day. Especially in the latter part of the day, thunderstorms are possible, particularly in western regions and along the Northern Alps. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 7 to plus 11 degrees; at 3000 m: zero to plus 2 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger continues to depend on time of day and whether the snowpack was able to cool and firm during the night. Following snowfall, avalanches will be more frequent for a short time. If the situation changes significantly, a new avalanche bulletin will be published.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe