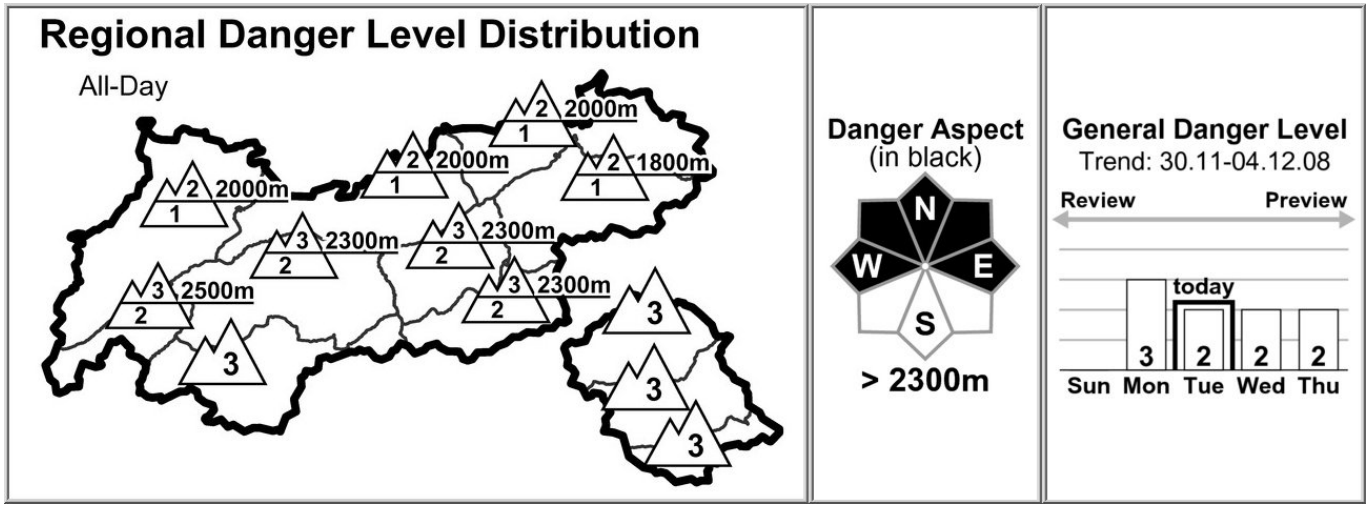
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 02.12.2008, at 07:30



CONSIDERABLE DANGER IN REGIONS WITH LOTS OF SNOW, SITUATION MORE FAVOURABLE FURTHER NORTH

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has receded to the danger level "considerable" (Level 3) in the regions with lots of new snow, i.e. East Tyrol and the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps in particular. Isolated natural avalanches are now to be expected only on extremely steep grassy slopes. The indicators of these so-called full depth snowslides are glide cracks in the snowpack. They are more frequently unleashed where the snowpack is thoroughly wet than at high altitudes. Classic slab avalanches, i.e. where the old snowpack serves as a bed surface, can still be triggered throughout Tyrol, primarily above approximately 2300 m on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast slopes. Great caution must be exercised towards recently formed snowdrift accumulations which are particularly plentiful in areas adjacent to ridge lines and in those regions with lots of new snow. Transition areas from little to lots of snow also require great heed, since backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger avalanches more easily in those areas. In Tyrol's northern regions more favourable conditions prevail; nonetheless, caution is imperative towards small sized snowdrift accumulations near the ridge lines in very steep, shady terrain.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours it has snowed an additional 20 - 30 cm in East Tyrol, in the Ötztal, Stubai, Tux and Zillertal Alps. Further to the north there was only 5 cm of new snow. In East Tyrol and the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, 100 - 150 cm of snow has fallen over the last four days, amid intense winds in some regions. The snowpack has settled well and has already consolidated somewhat due to the lower temperatures. Up to 1500 m, however, it is moist or wet, due to yesterday's rain and thus, can still be unleashed in slides on steep, smooth surfaces. The old snowpack above approximately 2300 m, which consists of previously cold, now loosely packed, faceted snow crystals, can also serve as a bed surface on west-northwest to north to east-northeast slopes. In high alpine regions, in addition, there is a layer of depth hoar in the snow fundament from the early part of winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Deep winter conditions in Tyrol's mountains, with lots of new snow along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the southern Alps. Visibility remains poor in most mountain massifs today, snow showers are still possible. During the afternoon from the Lechtal to the Ötztal and Stubai Alps, improved visibility is expected. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds prevail, towards Lower Inn Valley and East Tyrol they are southerly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche situation will continue to stabilize.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**