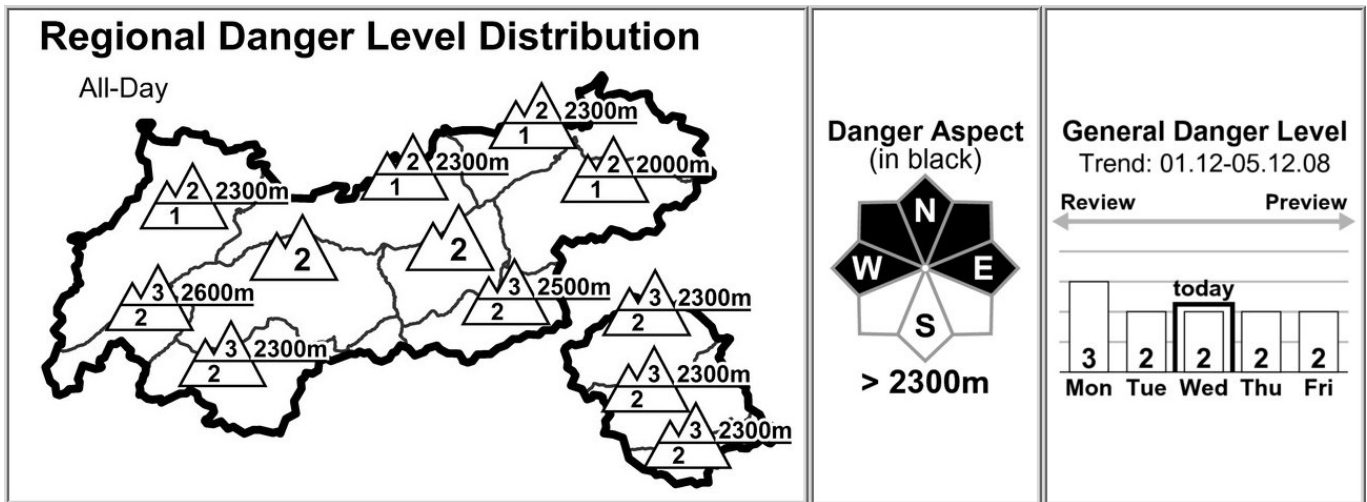


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 03.12.2008, at 07:30



STILL CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER ABOVE APPX. 2300 M; FULL DEPTH SNOWSLIDES IN SOUTHERN REGIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger continues to recede. Below 2300 m it is now categorized as moderate in Tyrol's regions with lots of new snow, i.e. East Tyrol, the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps. Above that altitude, the danger is still considerable. Slab avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider above 2300 m in those regions, particularly in transition areas from little to lots of snow. This is primarily the case on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes; at high altitudes in other aspects as well in some areas near to ridge lines. At lower altitudes, isolated full depth snowslides can still be expected in all aspects on steep grassy slopes. In the remaining regions of Tyrol, the major hazard for backcountry skiers and freeriders stems from recently formed, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations on very steep, shady slopes, usually near the ridge line, above approximately 2300 m.

SNOW LAYERING

There has been as much as 10 cm of snowfall over the last 24 hours, with only moderate strength winds at most. What is decisive in the present avalanche situation is not the new snow, but the fact that the snowpack in the heavy precipitation regions in the south has settled well and continues to consolidate. This is evidenced by yesterday's human triggered avalanches which were quite small and corroborated by the stability checks. A potential bed surface for slab avalanches can be found above approximately 2300 m in the faceted old snowpack on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes. In high alpine regions, in addition, there is a layer of depth hoar near the ground along the Main Alpine Ridge.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Quite good visibility in the mountains of the Upper Inn Valley and Ausserfern, elsewhere the fog is expected to disperse during the day. In the afternoon, clouds will sweep over the summits. Slightly higher temperatures are anticipated over the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 4 degrees, at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Isolated full depth snowslides can still be expected in the regions which have had heavy precipitation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe