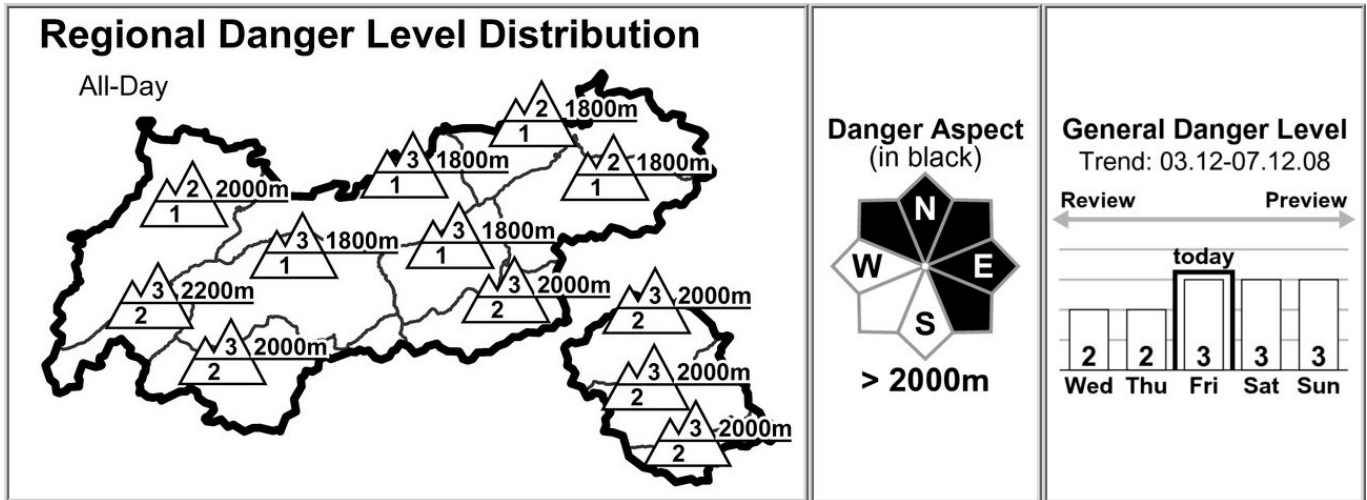


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 05.12.2008, at 07:30



STRONG WINDS CREATE NEW DANGER SPOTS

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche hazards have escalated. Above approximately 2000 m, in northern regions above approximately 2200 m, the danger is generally considerable (Level 3). Below the treeline in northern regions, low danger prevails (Level 1); in the southern regions with lots of snow, moderate danger (Level 2). Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in the form of freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are increasingly frequent on west-northwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes just below rocky edges and in areas adjacent to ridge lines. In these spots, a single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger avalanches. With sufficient experience in avalanche assessment, such spots can usually be easily recognized, providing visibility permits, and avoided. Currently, quite large additional loading is necessary to unleash older snowdrift accumulations. Particularly in transition areas from little to lots of snow, it is possible to trigger them. In East Tyrol and the regions with lots of snow, isolated full depth snowslides can be expected on very steep grassy hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has consolidated quite well since the recent snowfall a week ago. This has been verified by snowpack analysis. Both the fundament of depth hoar in high alpine regions on west to north to east facing slopes, and the old snowpack above approximately 2300 m consisting of faceted snow crystals which was evident until a week ago are now far less trigger sensitive than at the beginning of the week. Nonetheless, the snow surface which consists of predominantly loosely packed, cold new snow is a potential bed surface for fresh snowdrift masses. As the depths of snowdrift atop that surface increase, their bonding to the snowpack beneath becomes increasingly poor.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Windy, variable mountain weather: some snow showers to begin with, particularly on the Arlberg and in the northern Limestone Alps, as well as in the southern Dolomites. In the afternoon, the snow showers will spread to all regions of Tyrol. The visibility will be variable, rising and falling quickly. Southwesterly winds reaching storm strength will prevail. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations continue to be the major hazard.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe