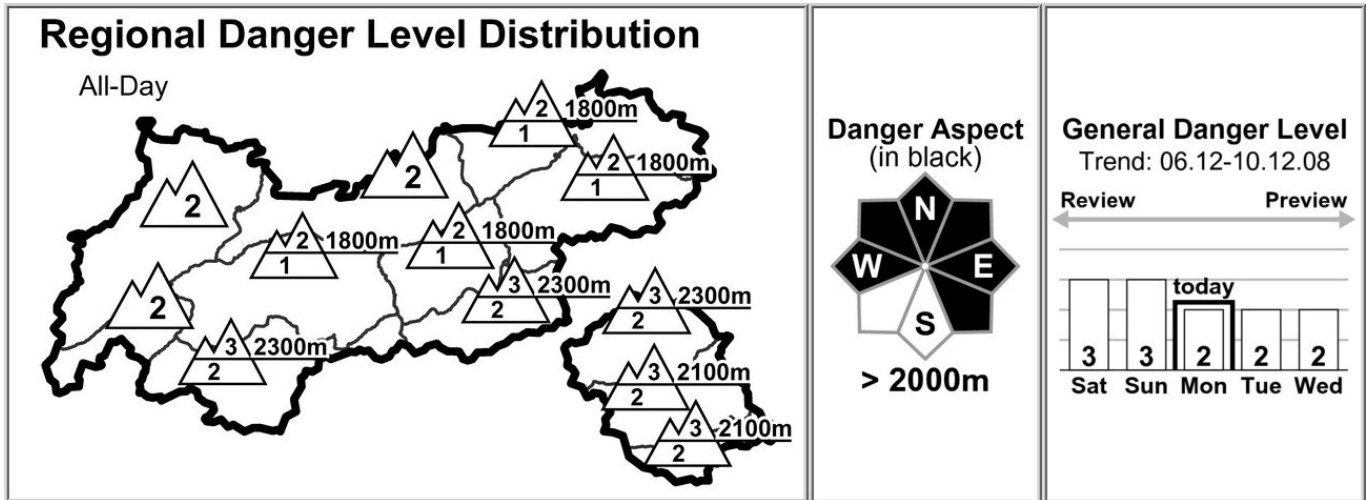


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 08.12.2008, at 07:30



FRESHLY SNOWDRIFTED STEEP SLOPES ABOVE APPROXIMATELY 2000 M ARE THE MAJOR HAZARD

AVALANCHE DANGER

In general, moderate avalanche danger (2) now prevails; below the treeline in the regions with little snow in Tyrol's northern regions, even low danger (1). However, with increasing altitude conditions become ever less favourable: in some places the avalanche danger is considerable (3). The strong winds of recent days, southerly to begin with, then northerly, have lead to new snowdrift accumulations being formed. With increasing frequency these snowdrift accumulations are found in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects as well as on very steep west-northwest to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 2300 m, where they can be triggered even by the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. In East Tyrol, these snowdrifts are found as of 2000 m. The sizes which unleashed avalanches attain are not altogether large. Further, in the western and southern regions with lots of snow, full depth snowslides can be expected on steep, grassy hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has settled quite well in general. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches, which linger from early winter or the end of November, have now been able to bond adequately with the snow layers immediately atop them. Thus, avalanches being triggered in those places, especially in transition areas from little to lots of snow and on very steep west-northwest to north to east northeast slopes above approximately 2400 m, is possible primarily through large additional loading. Special caution must be exercised towards surface layers of snow which have not bonded with the freshly formed snowdrift.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Superb weather conditions. Resplendent sunshine over the wintery mountain peaks. Lingering morning cloudbanks over the Northern Alps and local patches of fog clinging to mountain flanks will soon disperse, elsewhere the day begins with crystal clear weather. Visibility is extremely good and the frost will weaken significantly in the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 to minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: rising from minus 15 to minus 6 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly to northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will continue to subside.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe