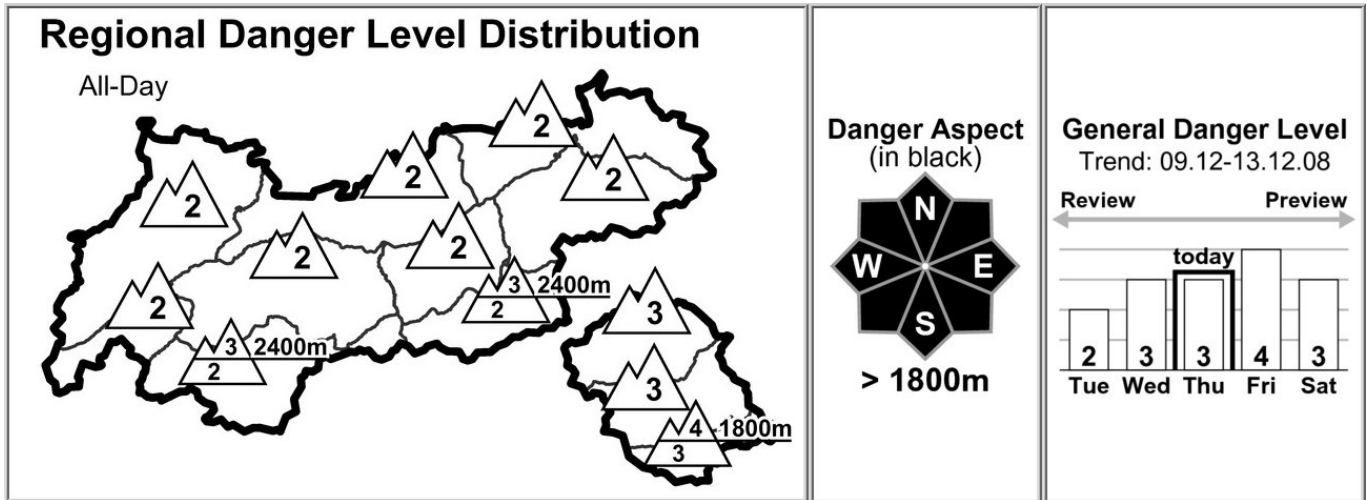


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 11.12.2008, at 07:30



HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER IN SOUTHERN EAST TYROL

AVALANCHE DANGER

In East Tyrol the avalanche danger has escalated due to heavy snowfall. It has now reached Level 3, considerable; in southern regions of East Tyrol above approximately 1800 m, it is high (Level 4). The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Backcountry tours are strongly discouraged. Natural avalanches which can attain large size are expected, and these can even put exposed parts of transportation routes at risk. In North Tyrol, the avalanche danger along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2400 m is also considerable, in the remaining regions generally moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to east facing steep slopes, as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 40 to 50 cm of new snow in southern East Tyrol, in the remaining parts of East Tyrol between 20 and 30 cm. In North Tyrol there was only significant snowfall in the southern Stubai and Ötztal Alps, namely 10 to 20 cm, in other regions of North Tyrol less. Due to generally strong southerly to southeasterly winds, large masses of snow were transported to areas adjacent to ridge lines; particularly in East Tyrol, massive snowdrift accumulations have formed. The bonding of the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations with the old snowpack is quite poor, making the snowpack prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

A low pressure front over Italy is the determining factor in the current weather situation in Central Europe, bringing about wintry conditions in Tyrol both today and tomorrow. Over the weekend, these conditions will slacken off, then next week wintry weather is again anticipated. Fog and snowfall are anticipated, heavy precipitation in the Carnic Alps in particular to begin with, then during the day moderate precipitation along the southern flank of the Alps. A few centimeters of snowfall is also expected along the Main Alpine Ridge. In the massifs further to the north, only sporadic snow showers are expected today, east of the Karwendel there will be fog, but it will remain dry, by and large. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Strong southeasterly winds in areas adjacent to ridge lines at high altitudes, elsewhere the winds will be light.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In East Tyrol and along the Main Alpine Ridge, further escalating avalanche danger, amid ongoing snowfall.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe