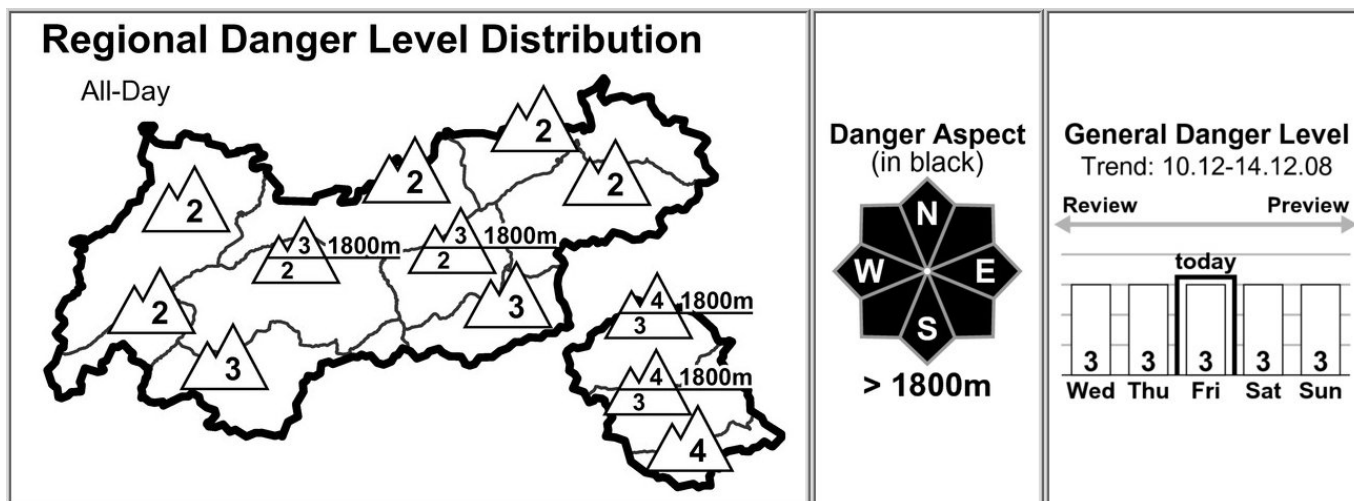


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 12.12.2008, at 07:30



HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD IN EAST TYROL

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in East Tyrol is high (Level 4) widespread; moreover, it can rise still further in case the snowfall continues. This is a critical avalanche situation. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects. Natural avalanches attaining both medium and large size can be expected, which in turn could endanger exposed parts of transportation routes. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs are strongly discouraged in East Tyrol. In North Tyrol, the avalanche danger along the Main Alpine Ridge is considerable (Level 3) in general, in the remaining regions it is moderate (Level 2). Avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been as much as 50 cm of new snow in southern East Tyrol, in the Lienz region and eastwards up to 75 cm, in Obertilliach 95 cm of new snow. Thus, 1 to 1 1/2 meters of snow has fallen within 48 hours. In the remaining parts of East Tyrol there has been 25 to 40 cm of snowfall in the last 24 hours. In North Tyrol there was 45 cm of new snow in the Stubai Alps in particular, along the rest of the Main Alpine Ridge up to 20 cm. Further to the north, there was just a small amount of snowfall. The initially strong southerly winds slackened off during the day, in the major areas of precipitation large snowdrift accumulations have formed which are highly prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Tyrol will remain in the grip of the low pressure front over Italy until Saturday, particularly the southern half of East Tyrol with massive snowfall. The weather conditions will then gradually ease. In the course of the weekend, winds will shift to southerly, bringing foehn weather conditions to the northern flank of the Alps. Today, foggy mountain weather is anticipated amid snowfall which will subside during the afternoon. But even later on, visibility will remain poor and the clouds dense. Due to the immense amount of recent snowfall in the Lienz Dolomites and the Carnic Alps, close heed must be paid to the avalanche bulletins. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Light to moderate southeasterly to northeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will gradually recede.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe