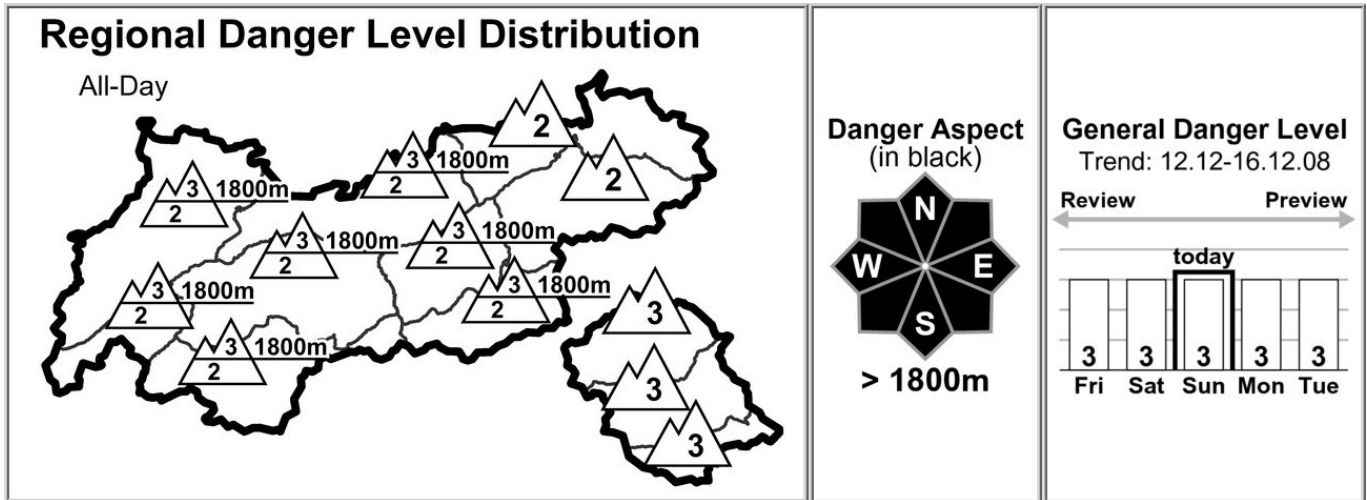


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 14.12.2008, at 07:30



STORM STRENGTH SOUTHERLY FOEHN WINDS CREATE UNFAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

Backcountry touring conditions in Tyrol have deteriorated further as the southerly foehn winds set in. Widespread the danger level is now considerable. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in particular are prone to triggering and can be unleashed even by minimum additional loading, including the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. In the course of the day, the danger of natural avalanches will increase, primarily in the regions with lots of snow, namely, East Tyrol and along the Main Alpine Ridge. Below about 2000 m, beware full depth snowslides on steep hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been a few centimeters of additional snowfall only in East Tyrol. Due to the southerly foehn winds which are expected to increase in strength during the day, new snowdrift accumulations will form in high alpine areas near the ridge lines in particular. Especially in those areas well known for being subject to foehn wind influence, the snow will be transported again today. Both freshly formed and old snowdrift accumulations are trigger sensitive and can be unleashed relatively easily.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

A low pressure front will extend its reach from England over the western Mediterranean by tomorrow. The southerly airstream on its forefront will cause a foehn-driven weather situation on the northern flank of the Alps, and a barrier cloudbank effect on the southern flank. Tomorrow, Monday, the precipitation will intensify in southern regions again. Today in the northern Central Alps and Limestone Alps, the foehn will bring about good visibility and intermittent sunshine, with somewhat diffuse light in places. The foehn winds will exert their influence especially in south and north facing valleys. Along the Main Alpine Ridge it will often be foggy. Fog is also anticipated on the southern flank of the Alps, where light snow showers are anticipated as well. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Strong southerly winds, in areas subject to foehn the winds will be stormy.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In East Tyrol the avalanche danger will increase slightly, due to new snow.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe