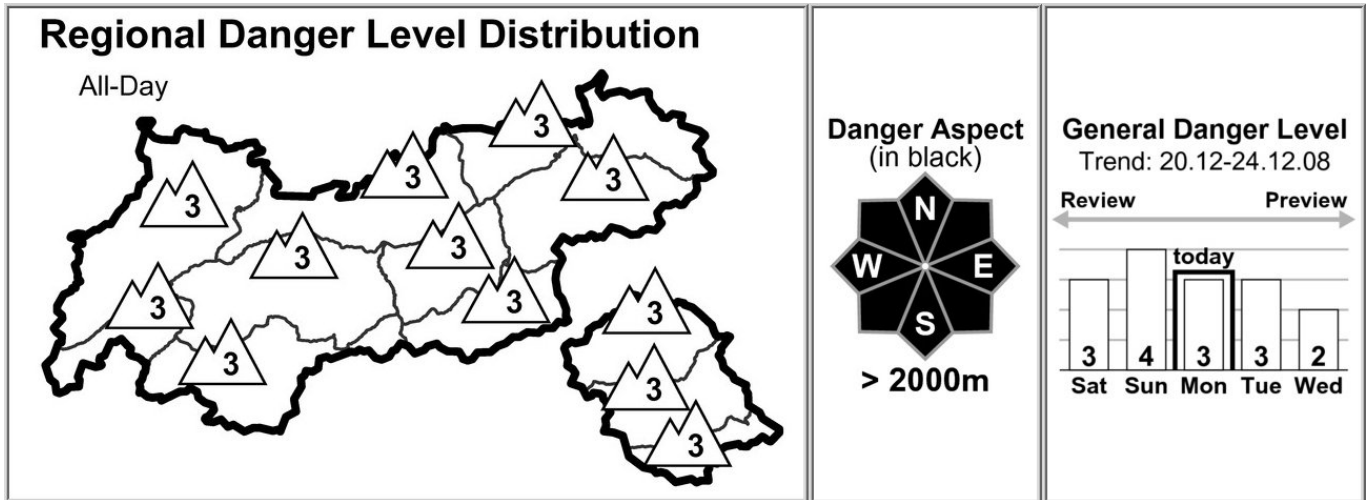


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 22.12.2008, at 07:30



CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol has receded slightly and is generally now categorized as considerable. Above approximately 2000 m, caution must be exercised towards dry slab avalanches in particular. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects. Especially freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered by minimum additional loading, even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Below about 2000 m, caution must still be exercised towards full depth snowslides, particularly on very steep, grassy hillsides. Wet avalanches are possible, since the snowpack is thoroughly moist.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday in North Tyrol below about 1600 m, it rained, in places quite heavily. In high alpine regions, primarily in the Silvretta, the Arlberg/Ausserfern region and along the northern Alps, there was 10 to 20 cm of new snow. At intermediate altitudes and in low lying areas, the snowpack is thoroughly moist. Above approximately 2000 m, the combination of new snow and strong northwesterly winds has created new snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering. In addition, down to about 2200 m, an ice crust has formed in many places which can serve as a bed surface for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather situation: Tyrol lies in a sharp northwesterly airstream wedged between a high over western Europe and a low over northeastern Europe. Until Christmas Eve, weather conditions will remain variable in this wise, in western regions it will be increasingly pleasant. Over Christmas, it will turn quite cold. Mountain weather conditions today: the mountains are blanketed in deep snow and will be visible over the clouds; especially the high peaks on the Main Alpine Ridge and along the southern flank of the Alps will be bathed in sunshine today. From the Karwendel eastwards, the summits will be cloaked in fog and a bit of snowfall is possible later in the day. The freezing level will rise towards 2000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Moderate to brisk northwesterly winds (average wind speed 30 - 40 km/h) at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will gradually subside.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe