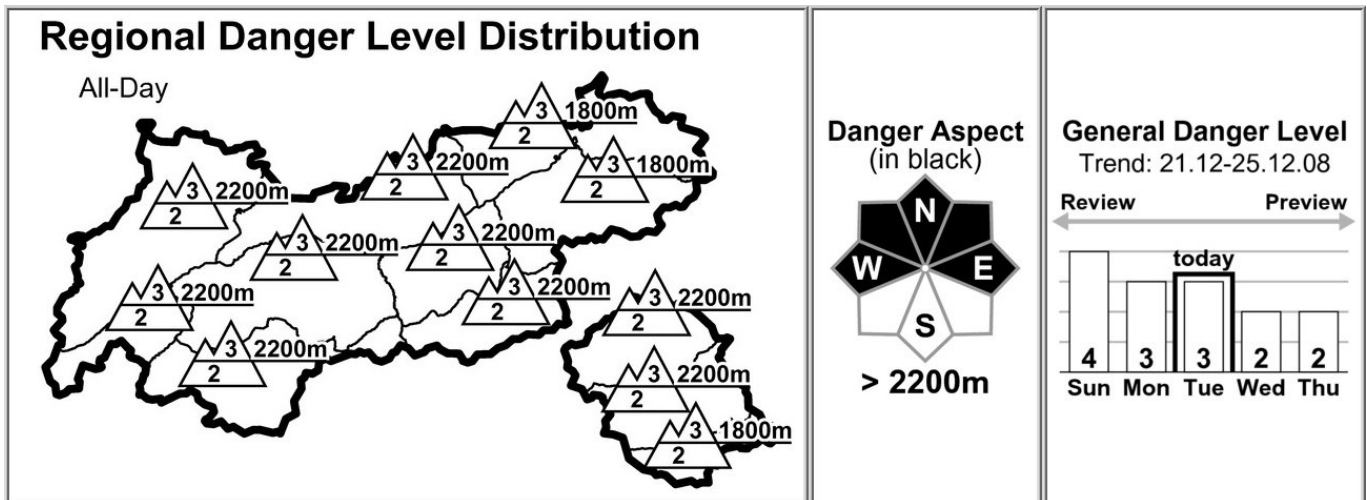


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 23.12.2008, at 07:30



AVALANCHE DANGER IS CONSIDERABLE WIDESPREAD ABOVE 2200 M

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has subsided slightly, but is still considerable widespread above approximately 2200 m. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes. In particular, snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering and can be unleashed as slab avalanches by minimum additional loading, even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Below about 2000 m, caution is urged towards possible full depth snowslides, whose threat is evidenced by frequent glide cracks.

SNOW LAYERING

In North Tyrol there was a bit of new snow yesterday at higher altitudes, in lower lying areas it drizzled intermittently. The snowpack below about 1800 m is thoroughly moist, the influence of this moistness can be observed up to about 2400 m on the surface. In high alpine regions, brisk northwesterly winds are bringing about new snowdrift accumulations. In general, the new snow and the snowdrift are inadequately bonded with the old snowpack. In addition, trigger sensitive layers are embedded inside the old snowpack which are potential bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather conditions: in a transition between a high over the English Channel and a low over eastern Europe, Tyrol lies wedged today and tomorrow in a narrow airstream which is bringing strong northerly foehn winds to the southern flank of the Alps. It will be very cold over the Christmas holidays. Mountain weather today: in the massifs west of the Brenner and the Zugspitze, predominantly sunny. From the Karwendel eastwards, cloudier, with the peaks often wreathed in fog, a few snow showers are possible. Generally stormy winds, particularly in ridgeline areas between the Wilder Kaiser, Zillertal Ridge and along the southern flank of the Alps, where gusts can reach wind speeds of 100 km/h and the skies will be cloudless in many places. Temperature at 2000 : minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Stormy northerly to northwesterly winds in ridgeline areas.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

A further small decrease in avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe