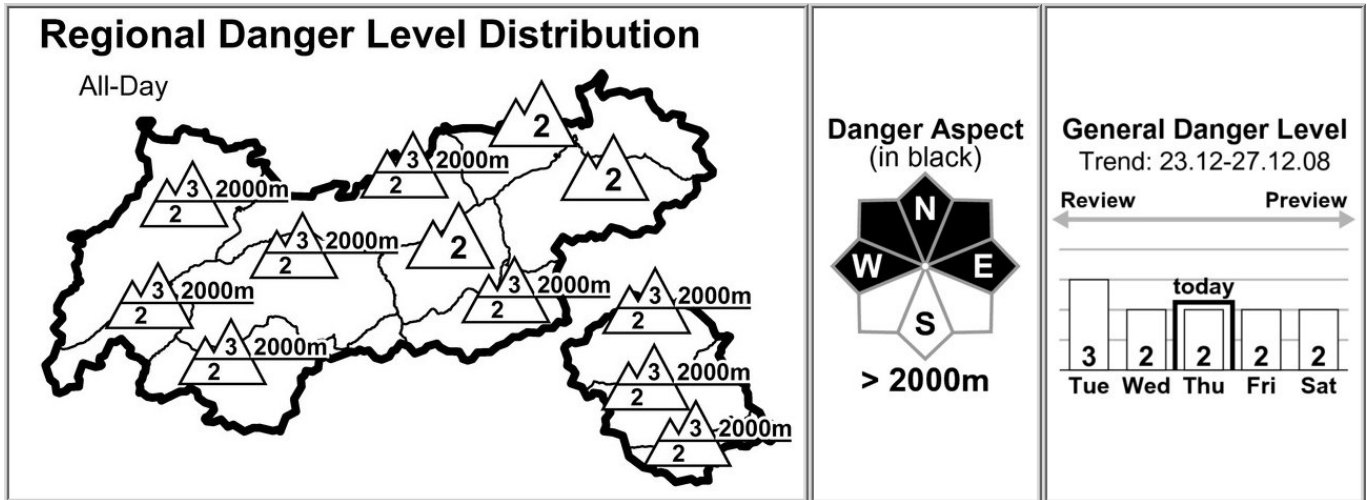


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 25.12.2008, at 07:30



MODERATE AVALANCHE DANGER WIDESPREAD, IN HIGH ALPINE REGIONS CONSIDERABLE DANGER IN SOME PLACES

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is moderate widespread, though in high alpine regions it is considerable in some places. The major hazard stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations. They are to be found on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m, as well as generally in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects. In isolated cases, full depth snowslides can be expected below about 2200 m, although this danger is lessening.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack below about 2000 m is thoroughly moist, in general. Due to the somewhat lower temperatures, a thin surface crust has formed in many places. In high alpine regions, the latest new snow has settled well and bonded with the old snowpack. Nevertheless, caution is necessary in inneralpine regions in particular, since there are weak layers embedded in the old snowpack which can serve as potential bed surfaces for avalanches. Brisk northerly winds have led to new, rather small sized snowdrift accumulations forming, particularly in high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a weak disturbance will sweep over Tyrol today from the northeast. In the next few days, the Alps will lie on the southern edge of a high pressure front which will bring us colder and drier air from Russia. Mountain weather conditions today: the high summits of the Main Alpine Ridge and the southern flank of the Alps will be bathed in sunshine in the morning hours. The lower lying areas and intermediate altitudes on the northern flank of the Alps still have to fight off clouds and fog, a bit of snowfall is expected during the morning, in the Lower Inn Valley during the afternoon. Intermittently, the skies are expected to brighten. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 7 and minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: between minus 15 and minus 10 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The danger of full depth snowslides will subside.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe