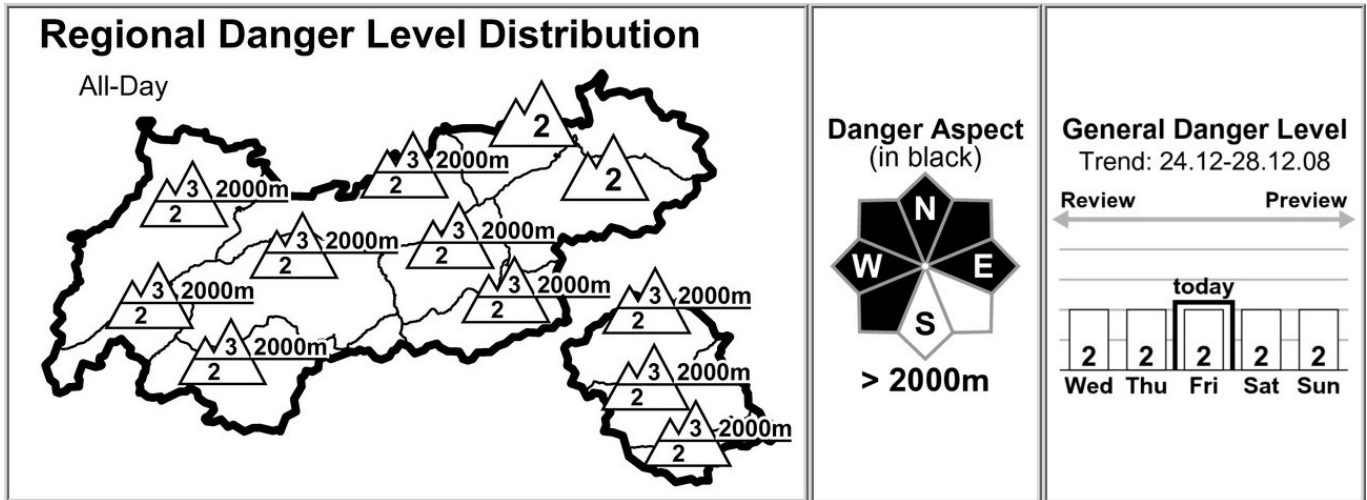


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 26.12.2008, at 07:30



PREDOMINANTLY MODERATE AVALANCHE DANGER - BEWARE FRESH SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS IN UPPER REGIONS!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is generally dependent on altitude: below about 2000 m, the danger is predominantly moderate (Level 2), whereas above that altitude it is considerable (Level 3) widespread. Caution must be exercised primarily towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which will form with increasing frequency in the course of the day today. These snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering and can be unleashed by minimum additional loading, even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on southwest to north to east facing steep slopes as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects. The hazards of full depth snowslides have subsided, they are expected only in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 5 to 10 cm of new snow regionally. High altitude winds have shifted to easterly and increased in strength, thus causing new, small sized snowdrift accumulations primarily in high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines. The easterly winds will continue to be strong today, which in turn will give rise to further trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations. The old snowpack has settled and consolidated well by now. In low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes, the lower temperatures have tended to stabilise the snowpack, which is thoroughly moist in most places. However, caution must be exercised in inneralpine regions towards the weak intermediate layers inside the snowpack which can serve as bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather situation: pinched between a high over northern Europe and a low in the south, a cold, dry easterly airstream holds sway over Tyrol. Over the next few days, sunny and often frosty high pressure weather conditions will prevail. Mountain weather today: throughout Tyrol's mountains, sunny wintery weather is on offer to backcountry skiers and freeriders today. However, be prepared for the cold and sometimes strong easterly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 10 and minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: between minus 16 and minus 10 degrees. Brisk easterly winds with top wind speeds of 60 km/h.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Deep winter weather with predominantly moderate avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe