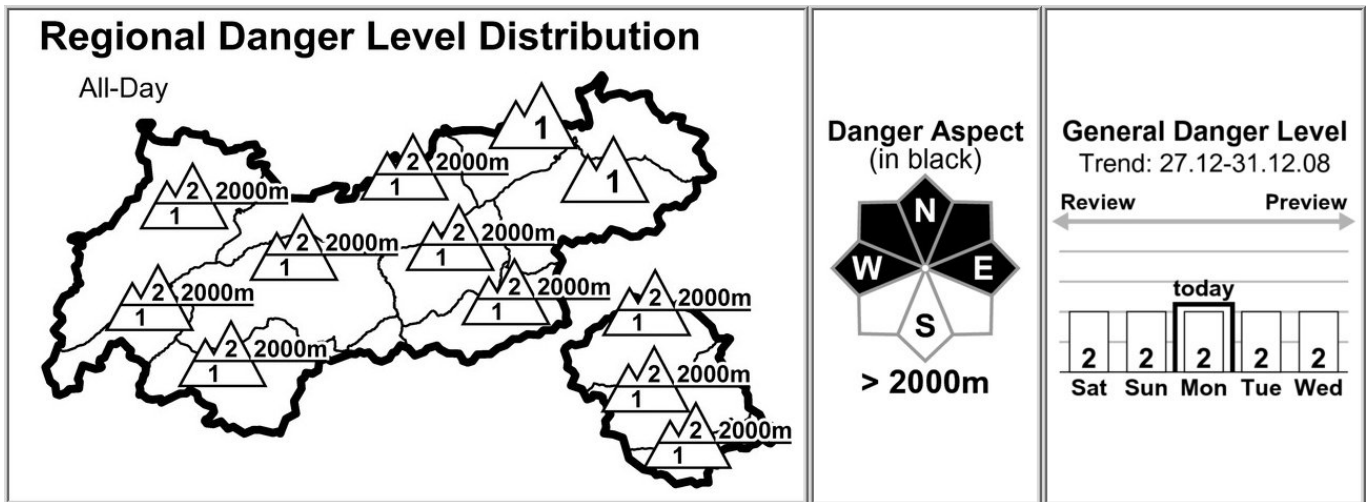


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 29.12.2008, at 07:30



FAVOURABLE TOURING CONDITIONS. BEWARE SMALL SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS NEAR RIDGE LINES.

AVALANCHE DANGER

Predominantly favourable touring conditions prevail in Tyrol's mountain regions. Below about 2000 m, the danger level is low widespread, above that altitude it is generally moderate. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders are to be found mostly in snowdrift accumulations adjacent to steep ridge lines and rocky edges. These are found increasingly frequently above approximately 2000 m on west to north to east facing slopes. With experience, these danger spots can be easily recognized and avoided. Above approximately 2500 m, in addition, on extremely steep north facing slopes in transitions from little to lots of snow, the old snowpack can be unleashed by large additional loading in isolated cases. In very isolated cases, full depth snowslides can be triggered on steep, grassy hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack in low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes is stably layered. Embedded near the surface is a melt freeze crust of variable thickness, beneath that the snowpack is gradually becoming faceted, in other words, looser and looser. On the snow surface, in addition, surface hoar is frequently forming. At higher altitudes, winds have led to new snowdrift accumulations. Due to the lower temperatures, these are currently rather brittle, making them prone to triggering. Furthermore, above approximately 2500 m on north facing slopes, a layer of depth hoar is embedded near the ground of the old snowpack. The bonding of old snow to this depth hoar is generally good, but in exceptional cases it can serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches. At higher altitudes, the snow quality has suffered due to the wind influence.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather situation: a high pressure front with its center above Scandinavia is the influential factor in Tyrol's weather today. The air masses are extremely dry, though at high altitudes southerly winds make them milder. Mountain weather today: superb weather for skiing. Brilliant sunshine, outstanding visibility and not quite as cold as in recent days. However, in some places it may be quite windy. The clouds between Ortler and Brenta will disperse somewhat. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 to minus 7 degrees. Moderate to brisk high altitude winds, in areas subject to foehn influence strong, gusty southerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing favourable touring conditions

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe