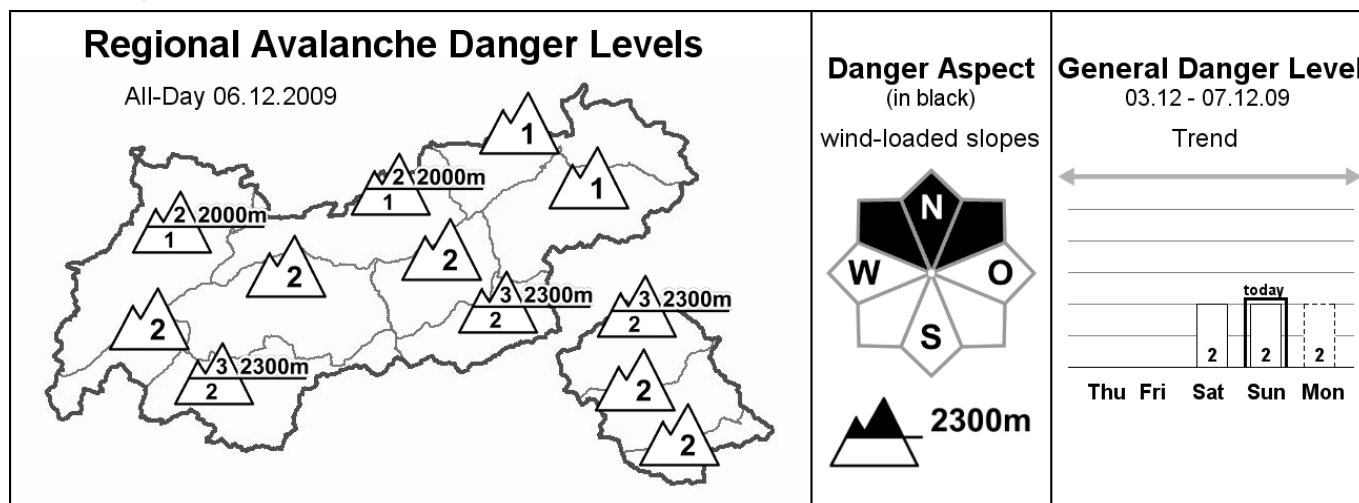


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 06.12.2009, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger regionally - Avalanche prone locations often difficult to recognize

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, in the western part of the Zillertal Alps and East Tyrol Tauern, considerable avalanche danger prevails above approximately 2300 m. This is due to the snowdrift accumulations which formed on steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes at the beginning of the week. Wherever there was already an old snowpack before this precipitation, especially where it consisted of only a little snow, slab avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. The avalanche prone locations become more frequent with increasing altitude. Areas adjacent to ridge lines tend to be the most hazardous. The generally loosely packed freshly fallen snow makes it difficult to recognize the danger. In remaining Tyrol, the danger depends on the snow depth. Where there is little snow, e.g. in the Kitzbühel Alps and eastern part of the Northern Alps, the danger is low; elsewhere moderate in places. The most dangerous areas are shady, very steep slopes, especially above 2300 m. In addition, caution is still urged towards the danger of snowslides in areas with lots of snow, particularly in East Tyrol, which are often triggered on steep, grassy slopes. On extremely steep, sunny slopes, isolated small sized loosely packed snow avalanches are also possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths in Tyrol increase towards the south. Across a belt south of the Inn, excluding the Kitzbühel Alps, quite good touring conditions prevail, in terms of snow depths. The decisive factor in the current avalanche situation is the old snowpack which formed in mid-October and in November. On steep, shady slopes above approximately 2300 m, this old snowpack has transformed into faceted, loose crystals in places. The bonding of the recently formed snowdrift to this old snow is poor, particularly at higher altitudes, as amply demonstrated by the first stability analysis of the winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: temperatures continue to increase in the mountains, freezing level at 2400 m and rising, westerly winds are becoming ever stronger in the Northern Alps. Very dry air today, but with diffuse light, due to intermediate and high-altitude clouds. Only intermittent sunshine. The summits are expected to remain clear. Tonight, light snowfall is anticipated along the Northern Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: rising to plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Brisk southwesterly winds; across the Northern Alps, strong westerly winds will prevail.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As wind velocities increase, new snowdrift accumulations will form which will be prone to triggering, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe