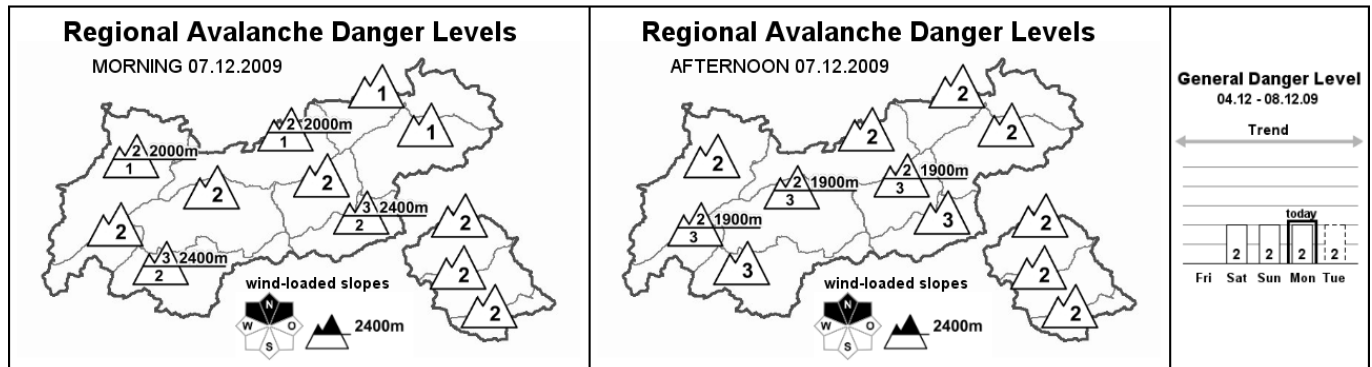


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 07.12.2009, at 07:30



Considerable danger regionally above approximately 2400 m - Rain increases danger at low altitudes

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has subsided somewhat due to the higher temperatures. Nonetheless, it is still considerable above approximately 2400 m in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps as well as in the western part of the Zillertal Alps. Ski tourers and freeriders are urged towards caution especially on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, where snowdrifts which formed a week ago are often blanketed over by loosely packed powder snow. These can be triggered, particularly in transition areas from little to lots of snow, even by minimum additional loading. Avalanche prone locations become more frequent with increasing altitude. In steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, in addition, caution is urged towards freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations in all expositions. In the remaining regions of Tyrol generally moderate danger prevails, due to the low frequency of avalanche prone locations; in eastern North Tyrol, which has only a little snow, the danger is low. In the southern regions with lots of snow, particularly in East Tyrol, snowslides can still be expected on steep, grassy slopes in isolated cases. In addition, the avalanche danger tends to escalate during the night, due to rainfall up to 1900 m. This makes moist sluffs and avalanches a temporary hazard.

SNOW LAYERING

The rise in temperatures throughout Tyrol has made the snow settle further. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack surface has become moistened. The decisive factor for the current avalanche situation remains the old snowpack which remained cohesive until the end of November: on very steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, it has transformed to loosely packed, faceted crystals which can provide a bed surface for slab avalanches. With increasing altitude, these weak layers become more and more pronounced, thus making the triggering of avalanches more probable. Through the rainfall which was forecast, the snowpack will lose its firmness.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: generally overcast, the 3000-meter peaks will be veiled in fog widespread. However, rainfall and snowfall will soon end (snowfall level about 2100 m). Quite brisk winds in some areas. On the southern flank of the Alps, conditions will be more pleasant. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Moderate to brisk southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations adjacent to ridge lines. Escalating danger at low and intermediate altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe