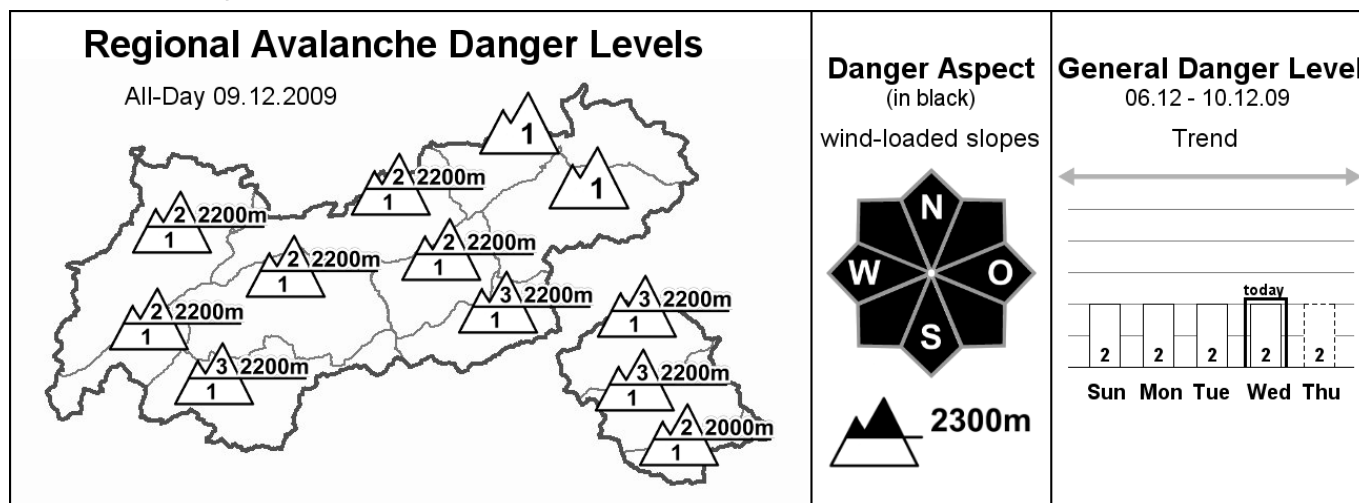


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 09.12.2009, at 07:30



Fresh snowdrift accumulations above about 2300 m are prone to triggering

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Below about 2200 m widespread, it is low. Above that, it is predominantly moderate; in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge with lots of snow and in East Tyrol above approximately 2300 m, it is considerable. The cause for this divergence lies in recently formed snowdrift accumulations which are generally not deep, but can be easily triggered by minimum additional loading. They become more frequent with increasing altitude, as does their proneness to triggering. In addition, in these regions in places with only little snow on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 2500 m, slab avalanches can be released in the old snowpack fundament. Full depth snowslides are expected only in isolated cases in those regions of East Tyrol with lots of snow.

SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack is wet at low altitudes, and moist up to about 2200 m. Above that altitude, a melt-freeze crust has formed, atop of which 10 - 20 cm of snow has fallen over the last two days. There have also been strong winds, forming new snowdrift accumulations at higher altitudes. Above approximately 2200 - 2300 m, the old snowpack surface was dry; thus the bonding to the fresh snowdrift accumulations is generally weak and becomes weaker with increasing altitude. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, in addition, on shady slopes above about 2500 m, there are faceted, loosely packed layers embedded in the old snowpack which can serve as potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: very sunny conditions with brisk northerly winds in the Southern Alps, soon thereafter there will also be sunshine in the glacier regions of the Upper Inn Valley. In the remaining regions, the snowfall will soon end, by midday the fog will lift from the west. Clouds will be most persistent in the eastern Lower Inn Valley. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 to minus 6 degrees. Brisk northwesterly to northerly high altitude winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe