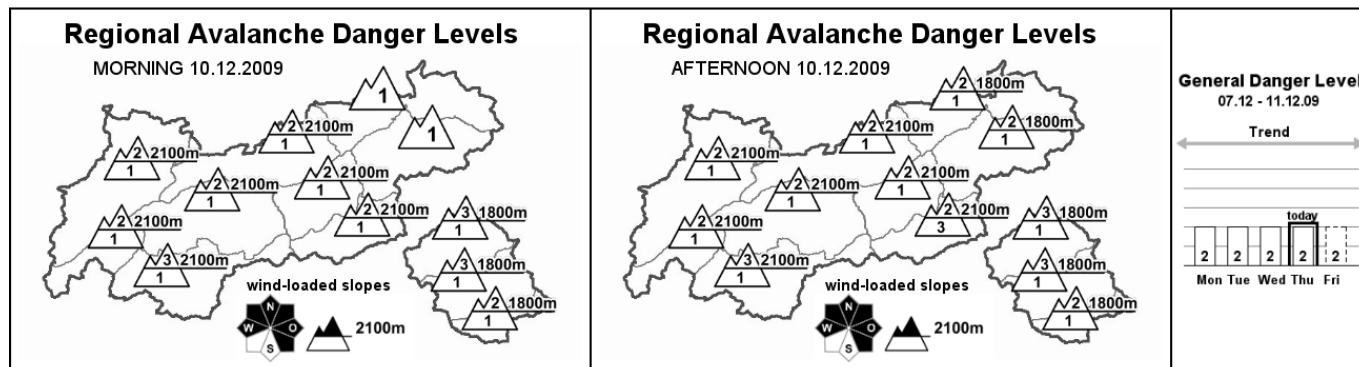


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 10.12.2009, at 07:30



Major danger still stems from fresh snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2100 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Below about 2100 m, the danger is low, above that level generally moderate. The situation in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps, the western Zillertal Alps, the East Tyrol Tauern and central East Tyrol is less favourable, where slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack on very steep terrain on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 2500 m, particularly in places with little snow. In addition, winds have been stronger in East Tyrol, thus leading to the formation of new snowdrift accumulations. These can be released even by minimum additional loading. Throughout Tyrol, these avalanche prone locations become more frequent with increasing altitude. Most critical of all are very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines.

SNOW LAYERING

Last night the snowpack cooled noticeably, beneath clear and starry skies. And now, high altitude clouds are already moving in from the west. Snowfall will soon set in, accompanied by strong winds in the northern regions: all in all, unfavourable conditions for the snow layering. Poor bonding of newly forming snowdrift accumulations to the current snow surface can be expected, and the bonding will worsen with increasing altitude. Above the treeline up to about 2300 m, in addition, conditions are ripe for the forming of a thin, faceted weak layer in the transition zone between the moist snow which fell at the beginning of this week and the cold layer of snow lying atop it. This creates additional hazards for fresh snowdrift which is deposited atop that. Above about 2500 m, along the Main Alpine Ridge, caution is urged towards a loosely packed weak layer near the ground.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: still pleasant conditions prevail in eastern regions during the morning hours, accompanied by sunshine. In Ausserfern and the Arlberg region, the skies will rapidly cloud over. During the afternoon, the Northern and Central Alps will be blanketed in fog. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 5 to minus 8 degrees. Brisk northwesterly to westerly winds, particularly in the Northern Alps, increasing further in velocity this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New snowdrift accumulations are expected to form above the treeline.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe