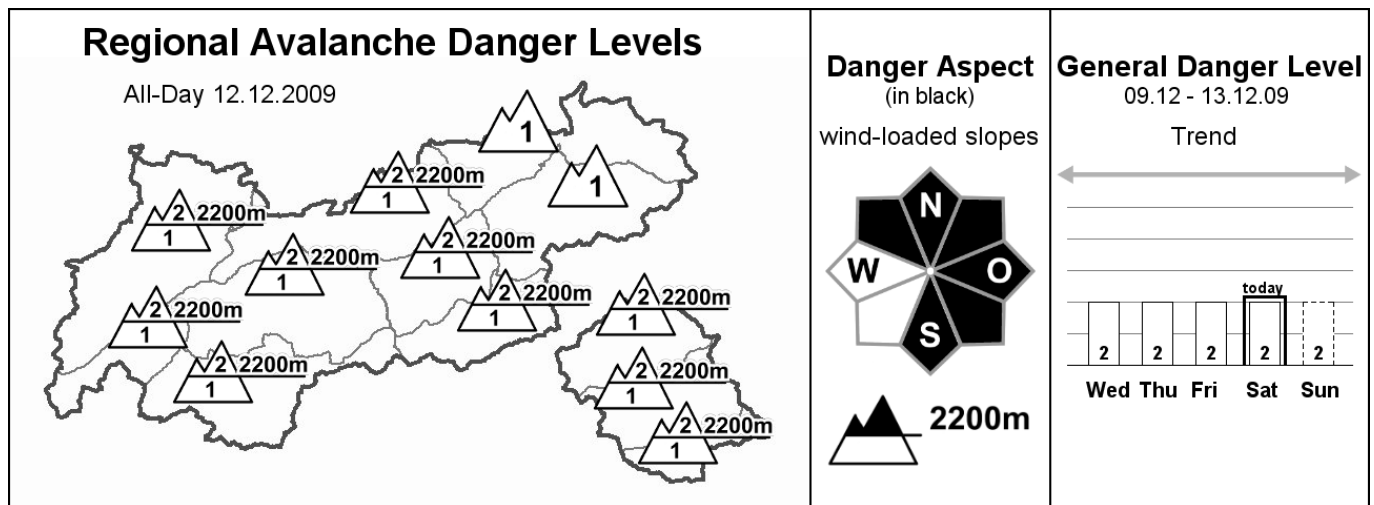


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 12.12.2009, at 07:30



Caution urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger becomes ongoingly more hazardous with increasing altitude. Below about 2200 m the danger continues to be low, despite snowfall. Above that altitude it is generally moderate. The major hazards for ski tourers and freeriders stem from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which are found primarily in areas adjacent to ridge lines and in gullies and bowls on northeast to southeast to south facing slopes in particular. In high alpine regions they can be triggered even by minimum additional loading in isolated cases, especially in northern East Tyrol, where they are more pronounced. These avalanche prone locations have become difficult to recognize, due to the slackening winds during this precipitation. In addition, particularly above approximately 2400-2500 m on very steep west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, slab avalanches can be triggered from a weak layer near the ground in shallow snowpack areas, primarily through large additional loading. In East Tyrol, isolated full depth snowslides can still be expected on grassy hillsides, despite the drop in temperature.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has generally been between 5 and 20 cm of snowfall in Tyrol and in northern East Tyrol; in the western part of the Northern Alps and in the western Arlberg region there was locally as much as 50 cm of snowfall. To begin with the snow was transported at high altitudes, but the winds have now tapered off. Before this precipitation, the old snowpack surface was at least moist up to about 2200 m. The bonding of freshly fallen snow to this layer is still adequate. However, as snow depths increase, trigger sensitivity will escalate as the bonding of snowdrift to the old snowpack decreases.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps to the Main Alpine Ridge, the peaks are often hidden in clouds. Primarily from Ausserfern to the Lofer Steinbergen it is still snowing. On the southern flank of the Alps and from the Ötztal Alps westwards, bright spells can be expected. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate northerly to easterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant changes in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe