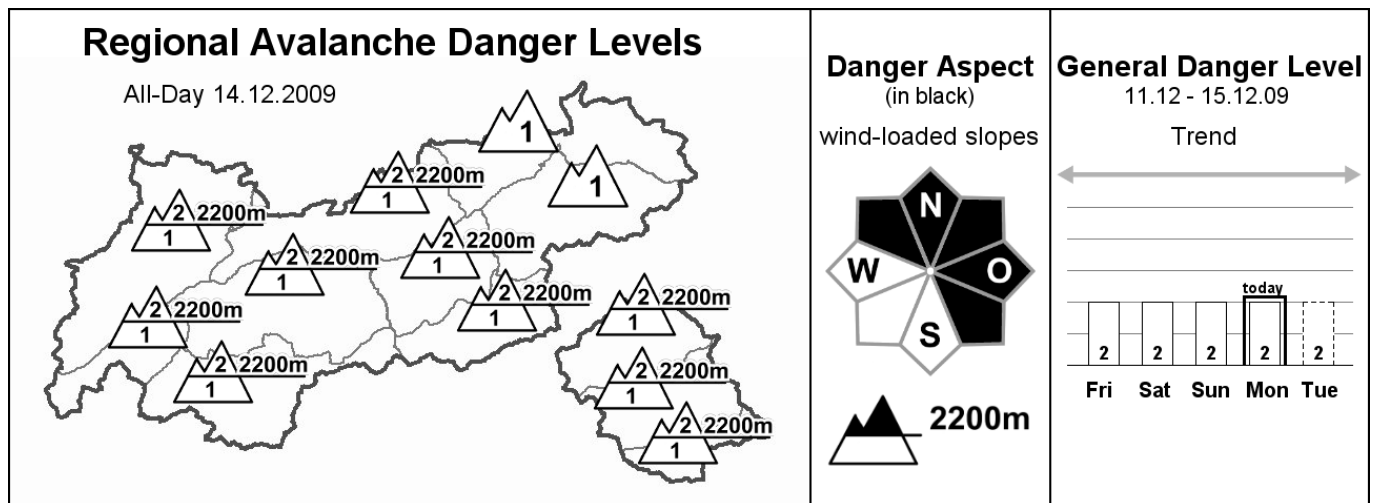


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 14.12.2009, at 07:30



Moderate avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol remains contingent upon altitude: below about 2200 m, the danger is generally low, above that altitude widespread moderate. The major hazards stem from the snowdrift accumulations which formed in the middle of last week. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in steep, high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines in northwest to north to southeast expositions. Since the snowdrift accumulations are often blanketed over by loosely packed powder snow, they are very difficult to recognize, making danger assessment problematic. Caution is also urged towards transition areas from shallow to deep snowpack, i.e. from windblown areas into snowdrifted gullied and bowls. If solar radiation is strong, loosely packed surface-snow avalanches can be released in steep starting zones. In regions with lots of snow, especially East Tyrol, isolated full depth snowslides are possible on grassy hillsides.

SNOW LAYERING

In general, the snow surface is loosely packed. At the same time, the persistent low temperatures benefit the transformation of snow crystals. The snowpack below about 2200 m is by and large well settled and consolidated. Above that altitude, its stability declines with increasing altitude, since freshly formed as well as older snowdrift accumulations are often poorly bonded with the old snowpack.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: cold air from northern Russia is sweeping over central Europe. Simultaneously, a weak high prevails over the northern flank of the Alps. On the southern flank of the Alps, however, moist air masses are being drawn from the western Mediterranean. Mountain weather today: in the Northern Alps, overcast and foggy in places up to 1600 - 1900 m, making visibility poor. Above that altitude, lots of sunshine from the morning hours, with good visibility. Between the Tauern, Carnic Alps and the southern Dolomites, dense cloudbanks, elsewhere in the Southern Alps, quite sunny. Cold. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 13 and minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Light to moderate high altitudes from varying directions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe