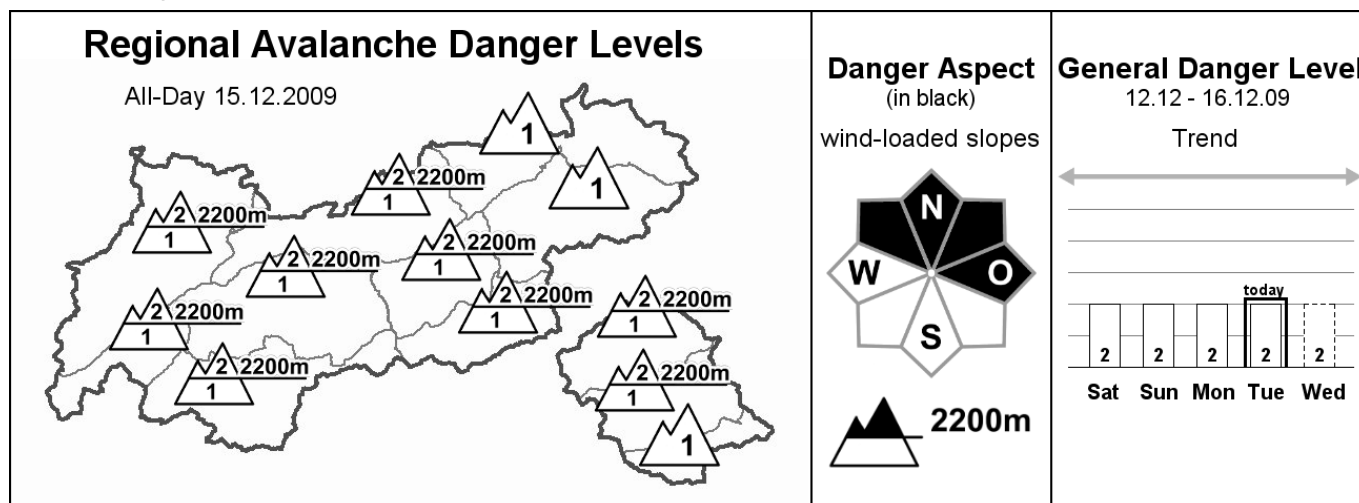


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 15.12.2009, at 07:30



Widespread moderate avalanche danger above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's mountains remains by and large dependent on altitude: below about 2200 m, generally low; above that altitude, moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines, especially in northwest to north to east expositions. The frequency of avalanche prone locations rises with increasing altitude. Caution is required in assessing transitions from shallow to deep snowpack, e.g. from windblown areas into snowdrifted gullies or bowls. Loosely packed avalanches can be naturally triggered only in isolated cases on very steep, sun-bathed slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The current cold, deep wintery conditions benefit the transformation of snow crystals, which thereby become more faceted and loosely packed, gradually decreasing the tensions inside the snowpack. However, caution is urged towards small sized, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations, generally above approximately 2200 m, which formed last week, which are often blanketed with newly fallen snow and are thus difficult to recognize.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather conditions: from Russia, icy cold air masses have streamed over the Alpine regions. The low over Italy has lost its influence over the southern flank of the Alps, a weak high now prevails over all of Tyrol. Mountain weather today: persistent fog at intermediate altitudes in some places, impeding visibility. Above about 1700 m, the sun is shining everywhere, providing excellent visibility. However, it is bitter cold. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 13 and minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Light to moderate high altitude winds from varying directions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Predominantly favourable ski touring conditions amidst moderate avalanche danger above 2200 m.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe