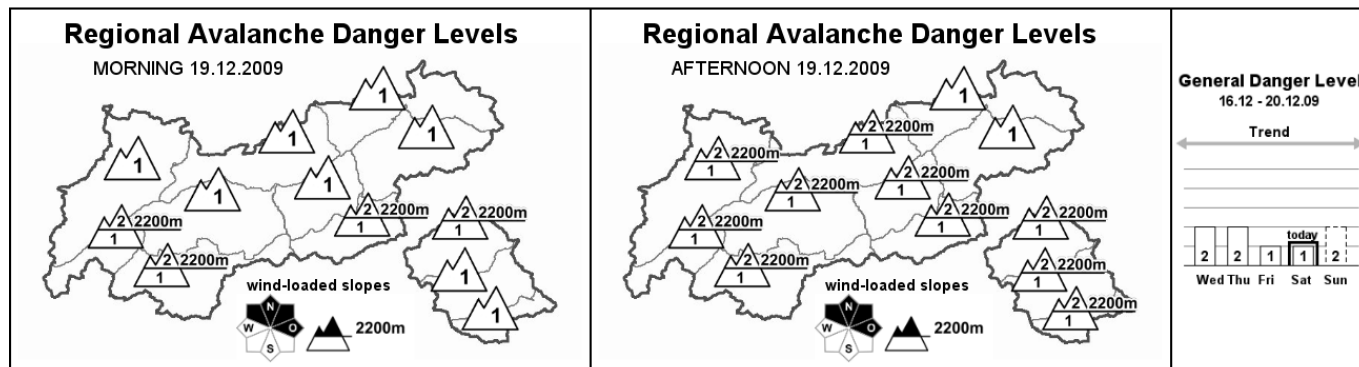


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 19.12.2009, at 07:30



Mostly favourable backcountry touring conditions, low avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, quite favourable conditions prevail today, amidst low avalanche danger widespread. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, the danger above approximately 2200 m is still moderate in general. Caution is urged particularly towards new and old snowdrift accumulations: generally small sized avalanche prone locations located primarily on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2200 m, especially in northwestern to northern to eastern expositions. The transition areas from shallow to deep snowpack, e.g. from windblown slopes or broad ridges into drifted gullies and bowls, also require special caution.

SNOW LAYERING

The very cold, deep wintery conditions of this last week have made the snow crystals in the uppermost layers transform and become faceted, making the surface loosely packed and powdery. However, even deeper down, hard layers have been dissolved, diminishing the tensions inside the snowpack. Some new fallen snow and moderate westerly to northwesterly winds today will cause new, small sized snowdrift accumulations to form.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: the high/low and its icy polar air masses are the major influences on Tyrol's weather. Due to a small low pressure area over Italy and a rotating disturbance, the air currents will become more moist today, tomorrow turning drier again. Next week the air currents will shift direction to southwest, bringing about noticeably higher temperatures. Mountain weather today: generally foggy and extremely cold in the mountains of North and East Tyrol, with repeated light snowfall. Better visibility and a bit of sunshine are promised in the southern Ötztal Alps and all around the Ortler. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 18 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 25 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly to westerly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

With increasing wind velocity, new snowdrift accumulations and slightly escalating avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe