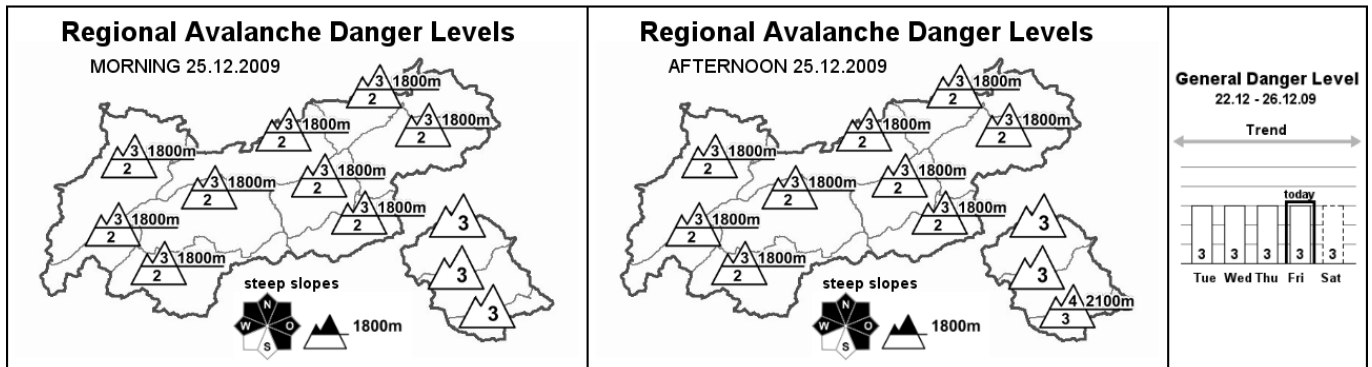


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 25.12.2009, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger above 1800 m in general - Utmost caution in southern East Tyrol!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation is currently least favourable in East Tyrol, particularly in southern East Tyrol, where considerable avalanche danger generally prevails. In southern East Tyrol, the peril may even rise to "high" in the course of the day due to precipitation. Naturally triggered avalanches, increasingly on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 2100 m, can be expected. In lower lying areas, in addition, rainfall can release isolated full depth snowslides on steep grassy slopes. In North Tyrol, the avalanche danger depends on altitude. Above approximately 1800 m, the danger is considerable; below that altitude, it is generally moderate. For backcountry skiers and freeriders, unfavourable conditions reign above the treeline at very least. The major hazard stems from snowdrift accumulations which have formed since Sunday, which can still be triggered even by minimum additional loading in steep terrain. This applies particularly to transitions from shallow to deep snowpack. Caution: even hard pressed slabs can be unleashed by minimum additional loading above approximately 2200 m.

SNOW LAYERING

The Christmas thaw has greatly battered the snowpack. Below about 2000 m, the snow surface is thoroughly moist to wet. Where weather conditions cleared up for a short interim, a thin crust has formed. However, the major determining factor is still the old snowpack blanketed by new fallen snow. The old snowpack consisted largely of cold, loose, floating crystals, surface hoar and faceted crystals. The bonding to the snowdrift masses lying atop it continues to be very poor, the trigger sensitivity quite high. The likelihood of triggering, however, due to the reduced brittleness of the snow compared to earlier in the week, has subsided somewhat. The distribution of snow above the treeline is extremely irregular, due to the ongoing influence of winds.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: a cold front is passing through, plummeting temperatures in Tyrol's mountains. From the deepest Ötztal Alps to the Hohe Tauern, in the Dolomites and in the Carnic Alps above 2000 m, 20 to 30 cm of snowfall is expected, perhaps more, accompanied by strong winds. In the Northern Alps, 15 cm of snowfall is anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: temperatures will drop from plus 2 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: the temperature will drop to minus 10 degrees. Strong southwesterly wind to begin with, later in the day the wind will shift to westerly-northwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing unfavourable conditions for backcountry skiers and freeriders in particular.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe