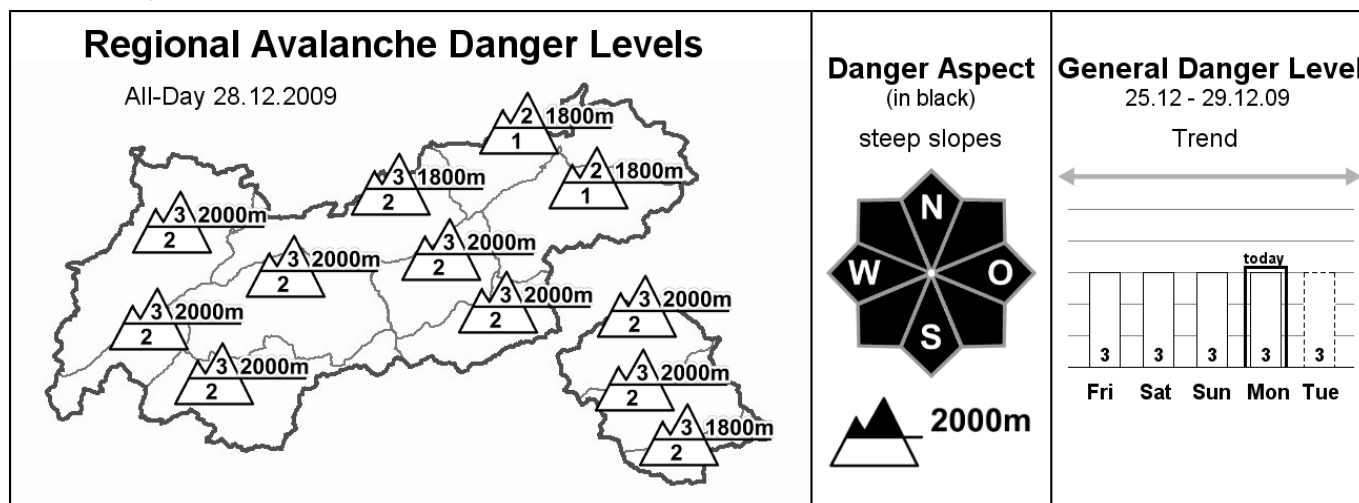


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 28.12.2009, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 2000 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is considerable widespread above approximately 2000 m. The major hazard stems from older and newer snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions, which become more frequent with rising altitude. It is possible to trigger avalanches even through minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight a single backcountry skier or freerider. If avalanches are released from inside the old snowpack, they can attain large size. Backcountry tourers and freeriders in outlying terrain away from secured ski slopes need to have extensive experience in assessing the avalanche dangers.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours along the Northern Alps there has been up to 10 cm of snowfall. The westerly to northwesterly winds were strong, which led to new, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations forming. The old snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is generally moist. In high alpine regions the old snowpack consists of faceted snow crystals. The bonding of older and newer snowdrift accumulations with the old snowpack surface is poor, by and large, permitting avalanches to be released relatively easily.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a westerly air current has brought variable conditions over the last few days. Between weak disturbances, pleasant phases are often evident; such is also the case today. As of Tuesday, warmer air masses will sweep across the Alps. Mountain weather today: during the early hours of the morning, a last bit of snowfall in the Northern Alps; towards the Main Alpine Ridge and the Southern Alps, skies will be clear. It will become sunny everywhere later in the morning. In the afternoon, visibility may deteriorate due to high altitude clouds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 to minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 to minus 13 degrees. Strong to stormy westerly winds at high altitude in the Northern Alps, elsewhere winds will be of moderate strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Above 2000 m, generally considerable avalanche danger persists

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe