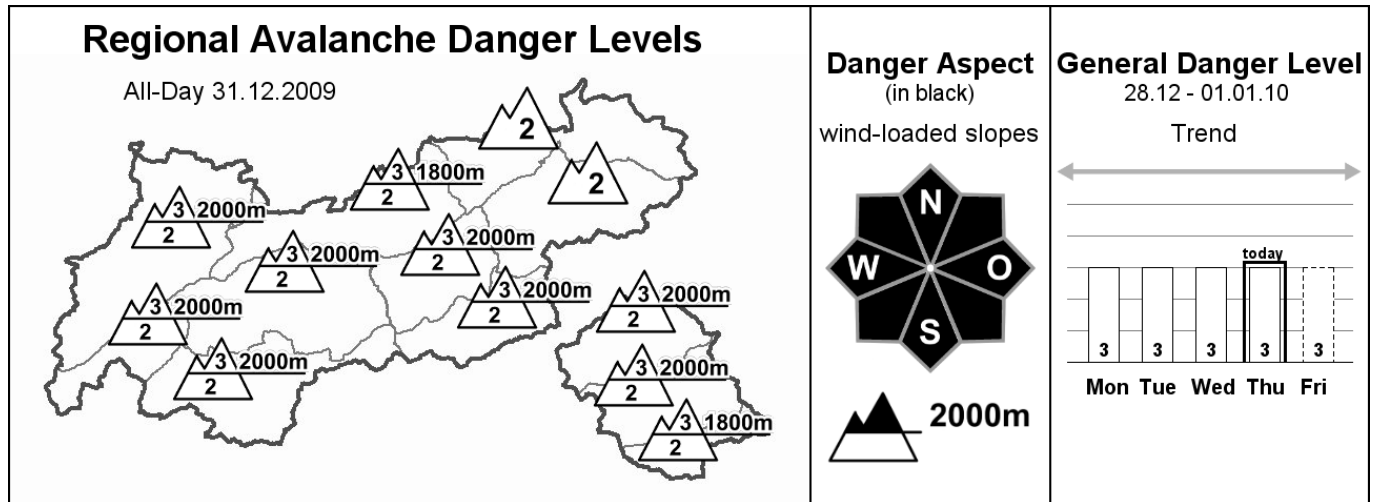


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 31.12.2009, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The highly variable weather conditions are impeding any improvement in the avalanche situation, the danger above approximately 2000 m remains considerable widespread. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions. Avalanches can be triggered both inside the masses of snowdrift deposited atop the snowpack as well as inside the old snowpack, and can be released by minimum additional loading. Even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider is sufficient to trigger an avalanche. Below about 2000 m, caution is urged towards isolated moist sluffs and wet snowslides which can be naturally triggered.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours above approximately 1800 to 2000 m, there has been up to 10 cm of snowfall widespread. At low and intermediate altitudes it often rained. Brisk to strong westerly to southwesterly winds have again transported the new fallen snow in high alpine regions; fresh, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations have formed which blankets the older snowdrift accumulations. The bonding of new fallen snow to older snowdrift is just as poor as the bonding of the older snowdrift to the old snowpack surface. Thus, avalanches can still be triggered with relative ease. At low and intermediate altitudes the snowpack has lost some of its firmness through the mild temperatures and rainfall.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tyrol continues to be dominated by a swift moving westerly to southwesterly air current bringing mild and intermittently moist air masses to the mountains. Towards Saturday the low altitude air current will shift to northeasterly and significantly colder air will sweep over the land. Mountain weather today: variably cloudy, at times very diffuse visibility, with many of the higher summits covered in cloud. In the afternoon, particularly on the Main Alpine Ridge, a few snow flurries down to about 1500 m. In the Southern Alps it will be more overcast and snow showers can be expected as of 1200 - 1500 m. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Moderate to brisk westerly to southwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Variable weather conditions prevent the avalanche danger from receding.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe