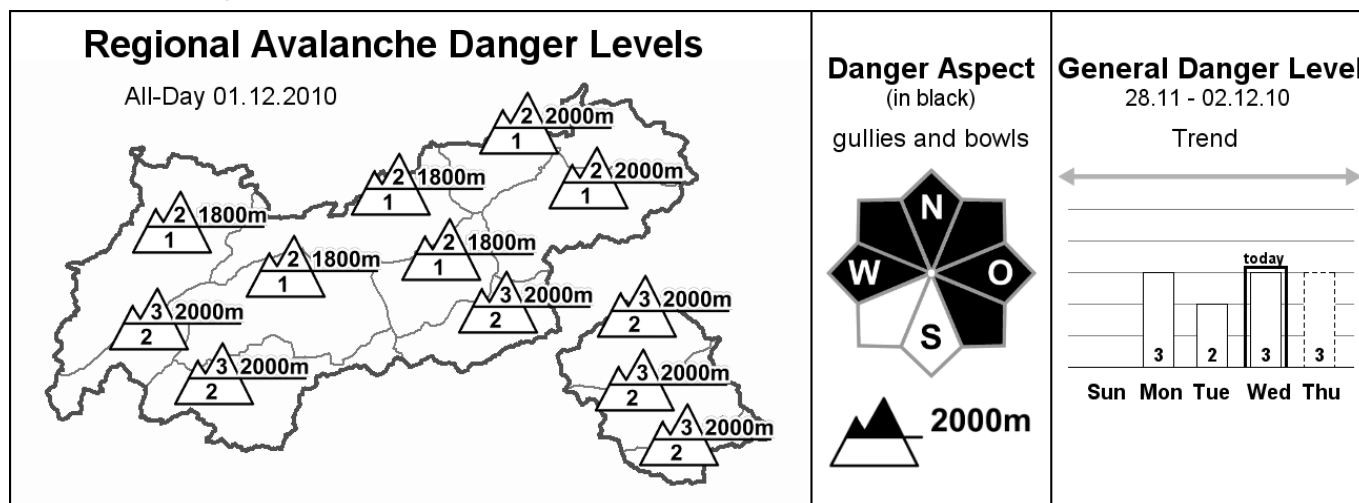


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 01.12.2010, at 07:30



New trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations forming at higher altitudes

AVALANCHE DANGER

In East Tyrol and in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, the avalanche danger has increased slightly: above approximately 2000 m the danger level is considerable. Below that altitude, it is moderate; at low altitudes, low. Further to the north, the avalanche danger is also contingent on altitude. There, due to the relatively low frequency of avalanche prone locations, the danger above the treeline is moderate. Below that altitude, it is generally low. Avalanche prone locations are to be found mainly in the recently formed snowdrift accumulations, particularly on very steep west to north to southeast facing slopes as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines in general. Fresh snowdrift masses can be more easily triggered than older ones. Caution is urged towards hard-pressed snowdrift which is brittle due to the cold, thus more prone to triggering by large additional loading. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, the snowpack on very steep, shady slopes can also be triggered by large additional loading, especially in transition areas from shallow to deep snow.

SNOW LAYERING

The wind has shifted and is now blowing at strong velocity from the south. It has recently begun to snow in southern regions. In the mountains, fresh snowdrift will continue to accumulate, which due to the cold will remain brittle and trigger-sensitive. In high alpine regions, there is a layer of depth hoar on shady slopes. Up to about 2500 m, two rain crusts are often embedded in the snowpack; particularly at lower altitudes they have converged to form one dense layer near the ground. The snow depths are irregular and highly varied. In northern regions there is far less snow than in southern regions. For that reason, backcountry ski tours are more rewarding towards the south.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a low is moving from the western Mediterranean towards central Europe. On the northern flank of the Alps, it is cold and foehn conditions prevail to begin with. Intermittent snowfall will spread from the south. On the weekend, strong westerly air currents will dominate, which will be interspersed with foehn conditions next week. Mountain weather today: the cloudbanks on the northern flank of the Alps are generally above summit altitude, making windows of sunshine possible. On the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, it will be overcast with snowfall of 10 to 20 cm by tomorrow, in some places of East Tyrol more. Later in the day, the likelihood of snowfall in northern regions will increase. Moderate southerly winds, in foehn exposed regions the winds can be strong. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Tonight: temperatures of minus 14 degrees and falling.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift accumulations are still prone to triggering.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe