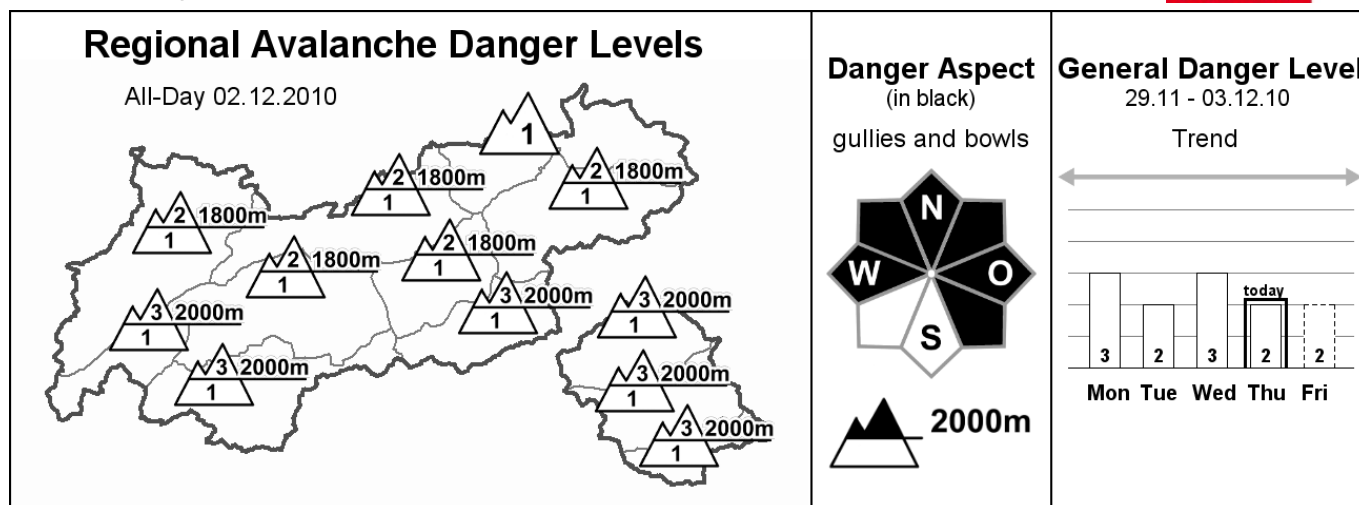


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 02.12.2010, at 07:30



Unchanged major peril for backcountry skiers and freeriders: fresh snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the southern regions which have the most snow, including the Silvretta, southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and Zillertal Alps, as well as East Tyrol, considerable avalanche danger prevails above the treeline, below that altitude the danger level is low. In the rest of North Tyrol, the danger above the treeline is moderate, below it low. The danger zones for backcountry skiers and freeriders are the snowdrift accumulations which have formed over the last few days, mostly above the treeline and becoming increasingly frequent with ascending altitude. In very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines and in very steep, drifted gullies and bowls, caution is also urged: due to the constantly shifting wind direction in recent days, avalanche prone locations can be found in all expositions. In high alpine regions in shady, very steep terrain, particularly in transitions from shallow to deep snow, slab avalanches can be triggered from a layer of depth hoar near the ground by large additional loading. In southern East Tyrol, full depth snowslides on steep, grass covered slopes are being observed more and more frequently.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, it has snowed throughout Tyrol, most of which fell in the East Tyrolean Dolomites (maximum 25 cm). Further to the north there was less snowfall, amounting to 5 to 10 cm in northern North Tyrol. The wind blew at varying strengths from varying directions. At low and intermediate altitudes it was often windless. For that reason, fresh snowdrift masses are to be found most frequently at high altitudes. Significant for avalanches to trigger is the transition surface between loosely packed new fallen snow and the snowdrift lying on top of it. The weakest layers are generally to be found only in steep, high alpine regions, where a layer of depth hoar formed in autumn which could currently serve as a bed surface for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: An extensive low pressure zone above central Europe is bringing cold air masses to Tyrol and brief bouts of snowfall. Following a short intermediate high on Saturday, westerly air currents now dominate, bringing milder temperatures. Mountain weather today: The mountains are wreathed in clouds and fog to some extent today. In the morning, light snow showers are no longer likely, the clouds may disperse. Higher peaks and glacial regions may even see some sunshine. This afternoon it will be cloudy accompanied by intermittent, but not heavy snowfall. It is quite cold. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. In high alpine regions and surrounding Wipptal Valley, moderate southwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe