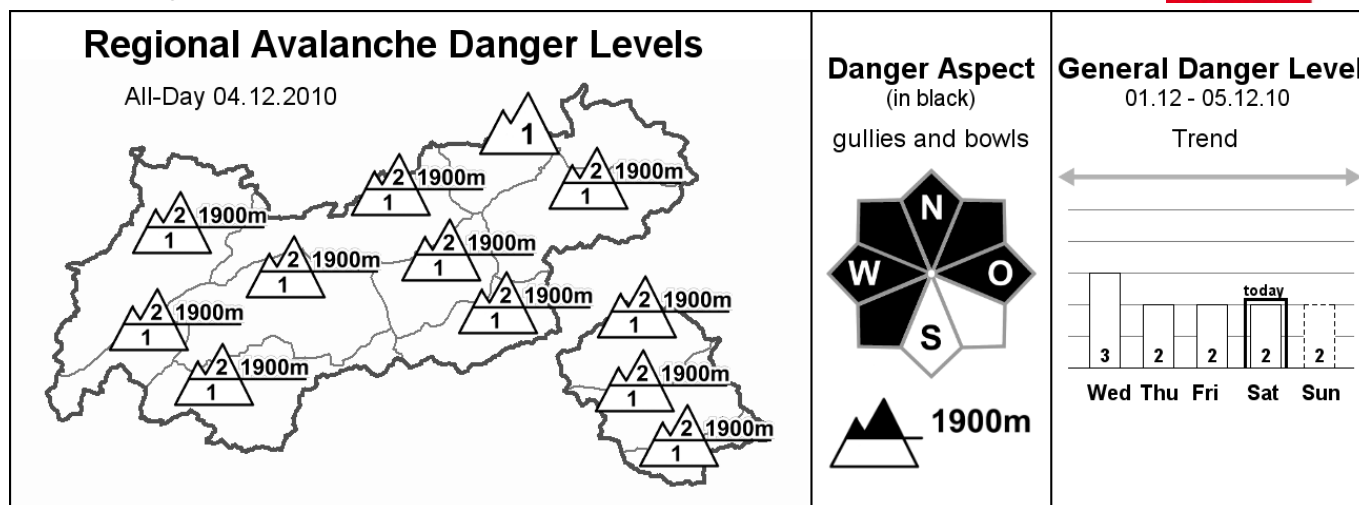


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 04.12.2010, at 07:30



Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift accumulations above treeline, full depth snowslides in south

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger continues to depend on altitude: above about 1900 m, the peril is generally moderate, below that altitude low. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry ski tourers and freeriders are to be found mainly in older snowdrift accumulations, prevalent in very steep slopes near ridge lines and very steep gullies and bowls above the treeline. Their size and their frequency increase towards the south and with ascending altitude. The loosely packed new fallen snow of the last two days blankets over these danger zones, making an evaluation more difficult. The snow masses released can be expected to remain relatively small in general, except for slab avalanches which can be triggered in shady, very steep high alpine regions from a layer of depth hoar near the ground. This is especially the case along the Main Alpine Ridge in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, where large additional loading can trigger even large avalanches. In southern regions, where it snowed most, full depth snowslides can be unleashed on steep, grass covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

There was again a bit of snowfall, amidst low temperatures: generally only 5 cm, in southern East Tyrol maximum 10 cm. The winds were light, so the fresh fallen snow remained loosely packed and was deposited tension-free. The bonding of older snowdrift accumulations with the old snowpack improves day by day, making avalanches in the rim zones between snowdrift and old snow only possible through large additional loading. Avalanches are likeliest to fracture above a rain crust, at high alpine altitudes, i.e. over 3000 m) and on shady slopes, namely, in a layer of depth hoar stemming from autumn.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: an intermediate high is supplying dry air masses to Tyrol. Tomorrow, new cloudbanks will follow, then on Monday some rain and snowfall is anticipated. Mountain weather today: icy cold, but sunny. The banks of high fog are generally below summit level. During the day, most of the mountains will disperse the fogbanks, but the winds will persist. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 13 degrees, at 3000 m: minus 17 degrees.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe