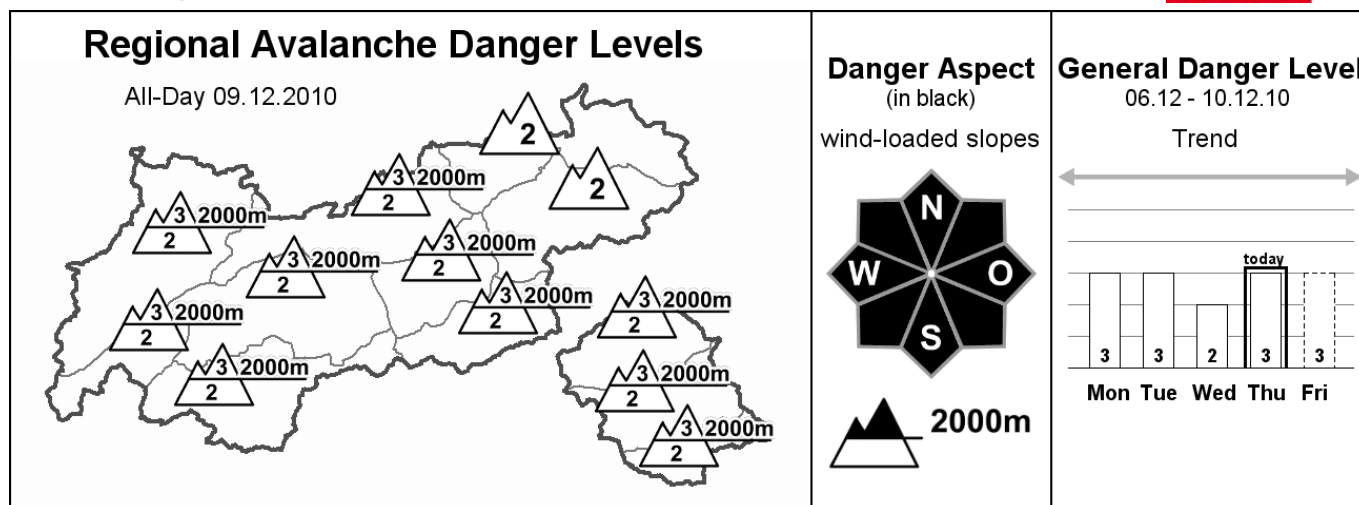


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 09.12.2010, at 07:30



Snowfall and stormy winds escalate avalanche danger level above 2000 m to considerable

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is increasing, above approximately 2000 m it is now considerable widespread. The major peril stems from the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions, especially above approximately 2000 m. The frequency of danger zones increases with ascending altitude. Even minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single skier or boarder, is sufficient to trigger an avalanche.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has been moistened to higher altitudes during the last foehn period: up to about 2000 m, on sunny slopes even higher. Thus, its firmness has been lost to a great extent. The now rapidly dropping temperatures will bring about a certain stabilisation of the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes. In high alpine regions, the combination of fresh fallen snow and strong to stormy northwesterly winds is transporting the snow masses anew, leading to fresh, trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulating.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a cold front from the northwest has reached the Alps, bringing an enduring wintery phase of conditions to Tyrol. In particular, the barrier cloud effect will cause heavy snowfall on the northern edge of the Alps. On the southern flank of the Alps, foehn winds from the north prevail. Mountain weather today: the regions heavily struck by the northwesterly air currents range from the Arlberg over the Allgäu Alps and Karwendel to the Kitzbühel Alps. From the Dolomites to the Carnic Alps, the northerly foehn winds will dominate today. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 to minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 17 degrees. Strong to storm strength northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst persistent snow showers, no swift improvement in avalanche danger is expected.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe