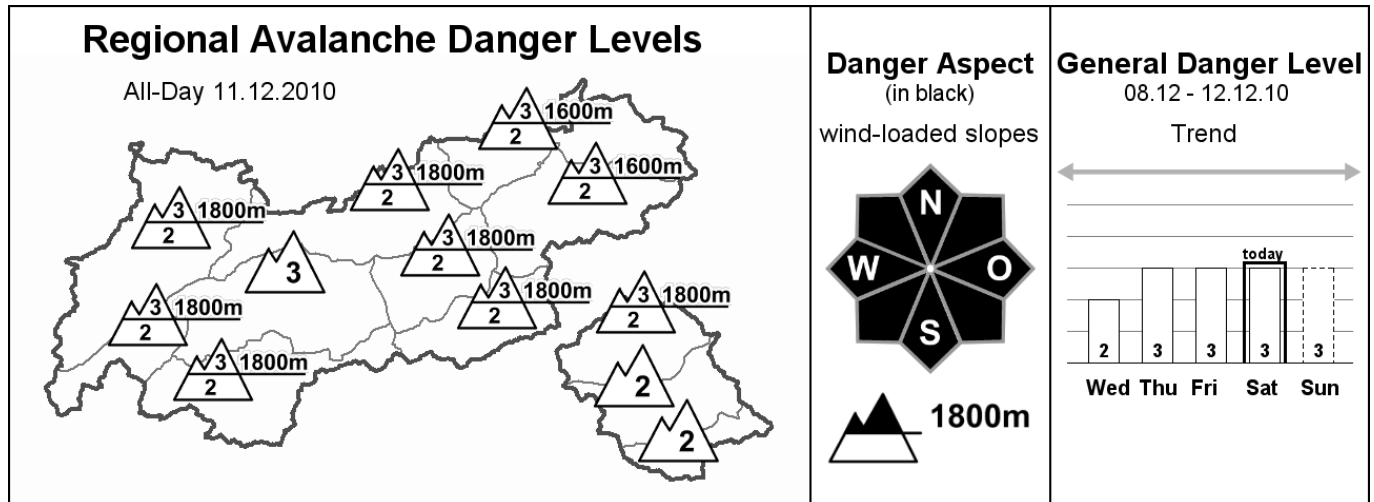


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 11.12.2010, at 07:30



Avalanche danger is considerable widespread. Beware storm velocity west-northwest winds!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Persistent snowfall combined with strong to stormy winds have created adverse conditions in Tyrol's backcountry ski touring regions. The avalanche danger level above approximately 1800 m is considerable. The major peril stems from the freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations, which can be triggered as avalanches with relative ease, i.e. even by minimum additional loading. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions, the frequency of such danger zones increasing with ascending altitude. In isolated cases, avalanches can also be naturally triggered which, if they fracture down to the old snowpack, can attain much larger size. For backcountry ski tourers and freeriders in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, extensive experience in assessing the avalanche hazards is essential. A prudent route selection is necessary.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in North Tyrol and along the East Tyrolean Tauern Ridge, there has been 10 to 30 cm of snowfall widespread. Along the Northern Alps there has been more than 50 cm of new fallen snow. High altitude northwesterly winds were strong to stormy to begin with, then slackened off somewhat. In high alpine regions in particular, widespread and massive snow transport was the result. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack is moist, due to the rain at the beginning of the week. In high alpine regions, the snow depths are highly varied and irregular because of wind influence. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are still inadequately bonded to the old snowpack surface, making them prone to triggering.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a warm front from Scandinavia has reached the Alps, leaving Tyrol in its wake. Northerly air currents, icy cold arctic temperatures and low pressure conditions dominate. Northerly foehn winds prevail on the southern flank of the Alps. Mountain weather today: the peaks are shrouded in clouds and fog, and it is snowing, creating poor visibility. The snowfall will taper off this afternoon, but visibility will remain strongly impeded. Temporarily milder temperatures. Generally dry, accompanied by cloudbanks between the Brenta range and the Carnic Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 to minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Strong to stormy westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger persists.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe