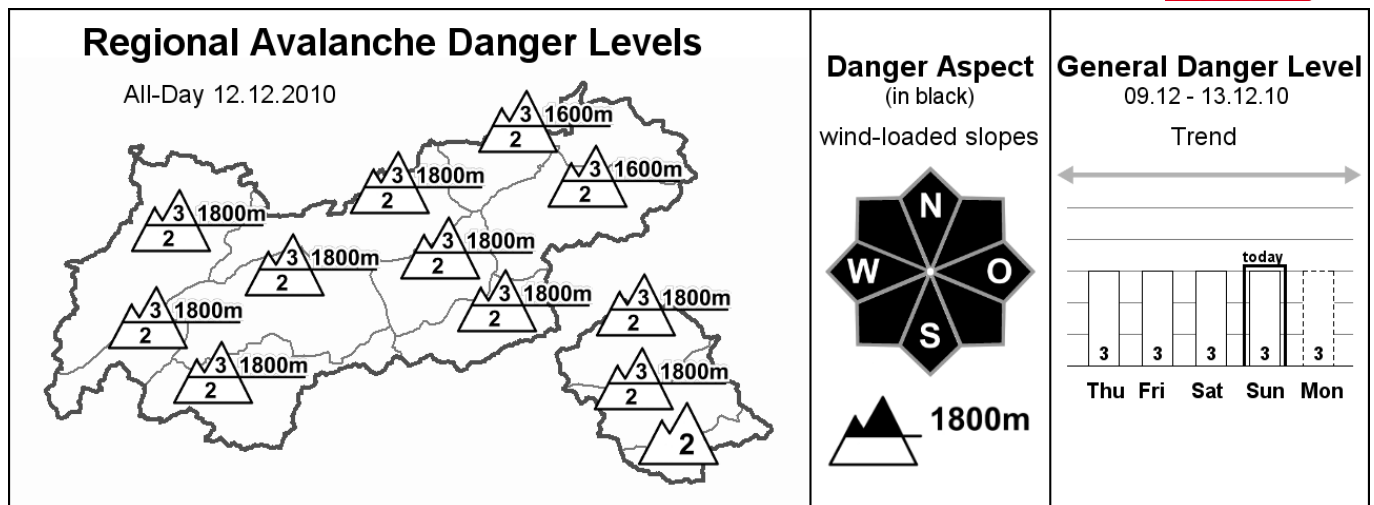


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 12.12.2010, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 1800 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The backcountry ski touring conditions in Tyrol are rather unfavourable today, the avalanche danger above approximately 1800 m is considerable far and wide. The major peril still stems from the freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations which are all prone to triggering. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions, especially above approximately 1800 m. The vastness and the frequency of such danger zones increases with ascending altitude. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Backcountry tours in outlying terrain make extensive experience in evaluating avalanche hazards imperative.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 15 to 20 cm of snowfall, primarily along the Main Alpine Ridge; in the remaining regions there was generally less new fallen snow. All in all, since Thursday morning 30 to 60 cm of snow has fallen along the Northern Alps; along the Main Alpine Ridge, 20 to 40 cm; inneralpine there was less. The snowfall was accompanied by strong westerly to northwesterly winds, in areas near ridge lines the winds were of storm strength. This led to repeated snow transport, and the snow depths are highly varied and irregular for that reason. The bonding of fresh and old snowdrift to the old snowpack surface is poor in general, thus making these snow masses highly trigger sensitive. In addition, inside the old snowpack are loose layers which can serve as potential bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: Tyrol is wedged between a low over the Baltic Sea and a high over western Europe, caught in a powerful, moist and cold northwesterly air current. Over the coming days, the center of this zone will shift towards the south. Mountain weather today: poor visibility due to clouds and light snowfall, particularly between Arlberg, Karwendel and Kitzbühel Alps and in the Tauern. On the Main Alpine Ridge, the highest summits will be above the clouds, before fogging in this afternoon. Cold and, in some places, very windy. In the Southern Alps there will be more sunshine, accompanied by strong northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 16 degrees. Strong to stormy westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitude, slackening off somewhat over the course of the day.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

With temperatures dropping, no significant change in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe