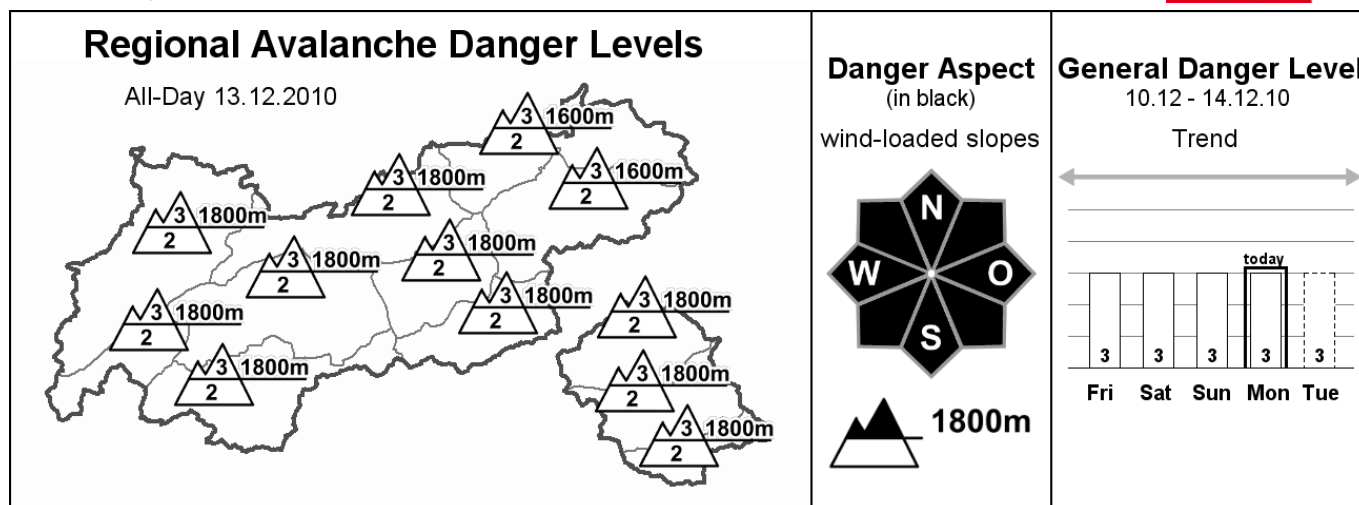


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 13.12.2010, at 07:30



Beware fresh snowdrift, particularly above the treeline

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent on altitude. Above the treeline, considerable danger prevails widespread; below it, the hazards are moderate. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiers and freeriders take the form of recently accumulated snowdrift, found in all expositions but particularly in very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines in east to south to western exposition. In some places, fresh new fallen snow not influenced by winds blankets the snowdrift masses, making them difficult to recognize. In general, the current situation demands extreme caution in very steep terrain. Slab avalanches can be triggered above the treeline even by minimum additional loading. The altitude zone between about 1700 and 2200 meters is most critical, due to a recently formed weak layer. At higher altitudes, avalanches threaten particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow. In addition, full depth snowslides are possible on steep, grass covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

It has snowed again in Tyrol, in most areas about 10 cm, in North Tyrol's westernmost regions and in the Lower Inn Valley as much as 35 cm. The snowpack is well structured only at lower altitudes, further up there are several potential weak layers encircling hard melt-freeze crusts and rain crusts, in particular a quite thin, faceted layer widespread, from which slab avalanches could be triggered. This is the case for altitudes 1700 to 2000 m in all expositions, on sunny slopes up to about 2500 m. The snowpack is highly varied and irregular, at higher altitudes the uppermost surface is often hard. In high alpine regions on shady slopes, near the ground is a layer of depth hoar from early winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: cold, intermittently moist arctic air masses are flowing towards the Alps from the north. In the latter part of the week, the air current will shift incrementally to westerly, the temperatures rise somewhat. Mountain weather today: very cold! Snowfall is anticipated during the morning, even from very dense clouds. This afternoon it will generally remain dry, the clouds will disperse somewhat and bright intervals are likely, despite bothersome residual fog clinging to the mountain flanks at intermediate altitudes. In the Southern Alps, brilliant sunshine in most places, accompanied by winds in eastern regions. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 15 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 17 to minus 22 degrees and falling. Generally light to moderate velocity northerly winds at high altitude; in East Tyrol's high alpine regions and the Dolomites, winds will attain storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Low temperatures are prolonging an adverse avalanche situation for backcountry tourers.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe