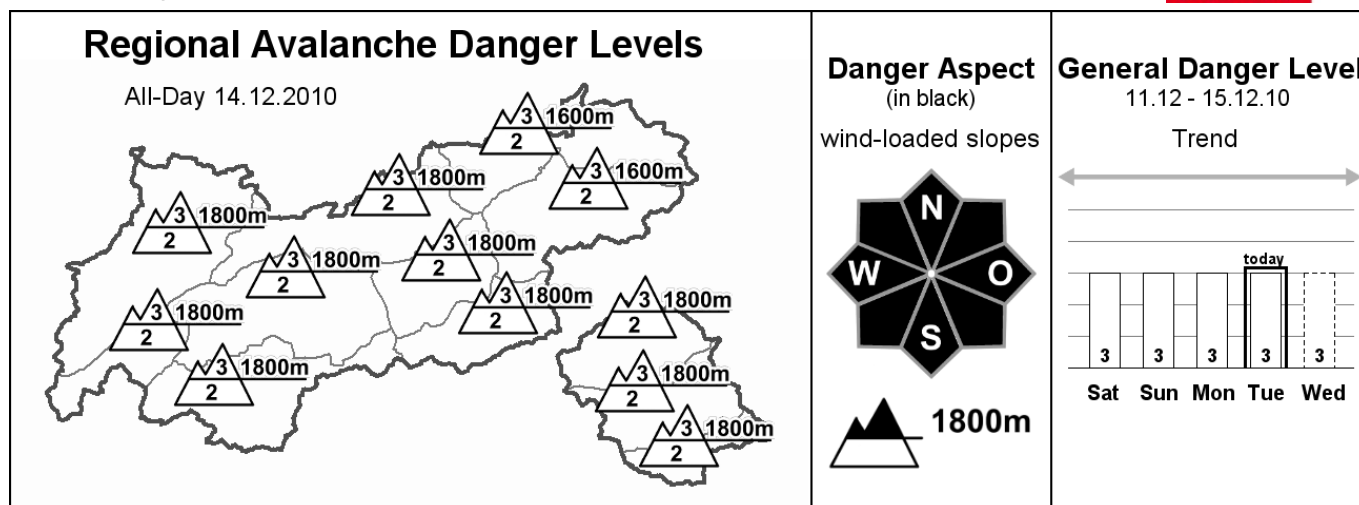


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 14.12.2010, at 07:30



Avalanche danger above 1800 m is considerable far and wide

AVALANCHE DANGER

Above approximately 1800 m, some very treacherous avalanche hazards prevail for backcountry skiers and freeriders, the danger level is considerable. Below that altitude, the danger level is moderate widespread. Assessing the danger level is currently especially difficult because the perilous zones are highly varied and wildly irregular, due to the strong winds over the last week. In addition, recently formed snowdrift accumulations are often covered over by loosely packed fresh fallen snow, making them hard to recognize. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in all expositions, particularly frequently in areas adjacent to ridge lines in northeast to south to southwestern exposition and in gullies and bowls. Further, between about 1800 and 2200 m altitude, special caution is urged due to several weak layers embedded inside the snowpack, especially on west to north to east facing slopes, which can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Backcountry skiers and freeriders are urged to exercise a high degree of restraint in steep terrain. Full depth snowslides are possible primarily in eastern and southern regions.

SNOW LAYERING

Wind, snowfall and low temperatures are currently the most powerful influences on the snowpack. The snow distribution is highly varied, particularly above the treeline. The snow layering is equally irregular. Its hallmarks are several embedded rain crusts. At lower altitudes there is a thick crust near the ground; between 1800 and 2200 m, two to three crusts are evident, encircled by thin, loose layers. The bonding of these layers is generally poor, making them easy to trigger. At higher altitudes, avalanches can be unleashed at the rims of fresh snowdrift masses and loosely packed new fallen snow. In shady, high alpine regions danger threatens from a layer of depth hoar near the ground.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: arctic air is being driven towards Tyrol from the north, accompanied especially tomorrow by snowfall. On Thursday, an interim high will dominate. On Friday, another disturbance will make itself felt, then the air current will shift to westerly to southwesterly and temperatures are expected to rise. Mountain weather today: dress warmly, the extremely low temperatures warrant it! The northern flank of the Alps will be cloudy and foggy amidst a bit of light snowfall. The higher summits and glaciers will see some sunshine. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be predominantly sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 16 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 23 degrees. Intermittently strong velocity northwesterly winds in some high alpine regions.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation for the moment. At high altitudes, new, brittle snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe