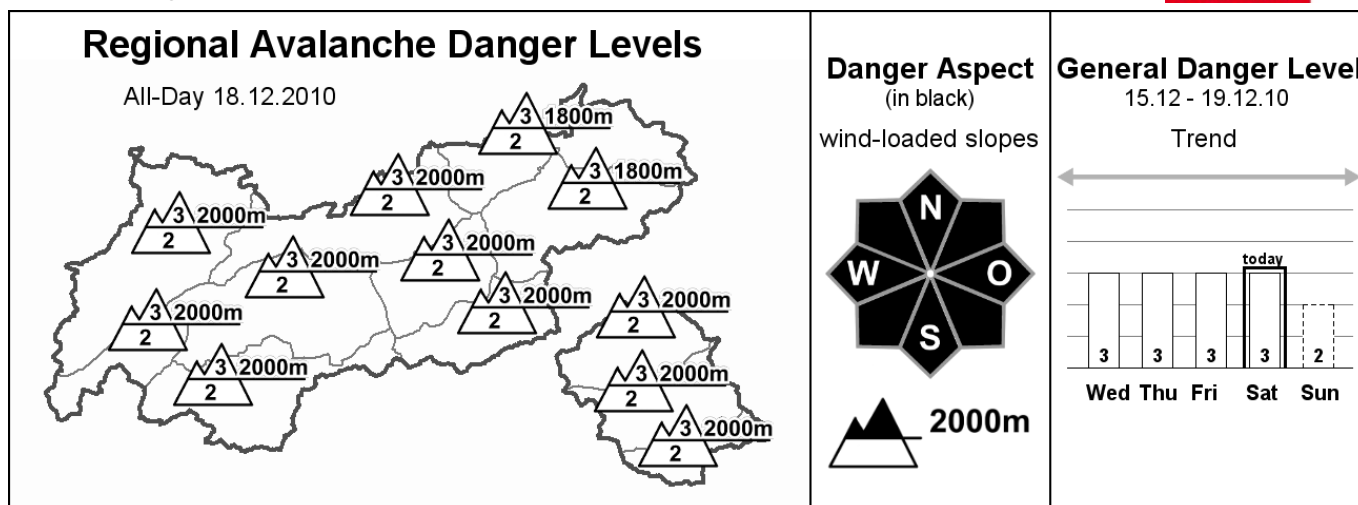


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 18.12.2010, at 07:30



Beware fresh snowdrift above the treeline!

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is a result of the way snowdrift accumulations are distributed. Above approximately 2000 m it is generally considerable, below that altitude moderate danger prevails, at low altitudes the peril is low. Backcountry skiers and freeriders need to be most cautious towards freshly drifted, very steep slopes. Avalanche prone locations are to be found above the treeline in all expositions, due to the highly varied winds, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and gullies and bowls. Fresh snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, but can usually be easily recognized. Older snowdrift accumulations can be triggered in particular by large additional loading in very steep terrain between 1900 and 2300 m on west to north to east facing slopes. In high alpine regions, i.e. above approximately 3000 m, caution is urged in very steep, shady terrain, where slab avalanches can be triggered particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow by large additional loading; such avalanches would attain larger size than elsewhere.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been maximum 10 cm of snowfall in the Arlberg region, elsewhere just a small amount. The westerly wind, particularly in foehn exposed areas and along the Main Alpine Ridge, blew at strong velocity, but has now slackened off significantly. Due to the low temperatures, snow was transported at high altitudes. Fresh snowdrift accumulations can be triggered especially at the transition line to the generally loosely packed new fallen snow beneath them. Additional potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are to be found particularly in the embedded rain crusts, occurring most frequently on shady slopes between 1900 and 2300 m. In high alpine regions, in addition, there is a layer of depth hoar near the ground which formed in early winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: an intermediate high prevails in Tyrol today. On Sunday, westerly currents will lift temperatures, amidst foehn wind influence in North Tyrol. Towards Monday, a disturbance will bring some precipitation to North Tyrol. From Tuesday to Thursday, foehn influence will dominate, with mild southwesterly currents, probably without precipitation. Mountain weather today: bitter cold in the mountains, but with lots of sunshine. As of midday at latest, even in the Kitzbühel Alps and in East Tyrol's mountains. In the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Southern Alps, generally brilliant sunshine. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 15 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 23 degrees. Moderate northwesterly to westerly winds, shifting to southwesterly during the afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is slowly receding.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe