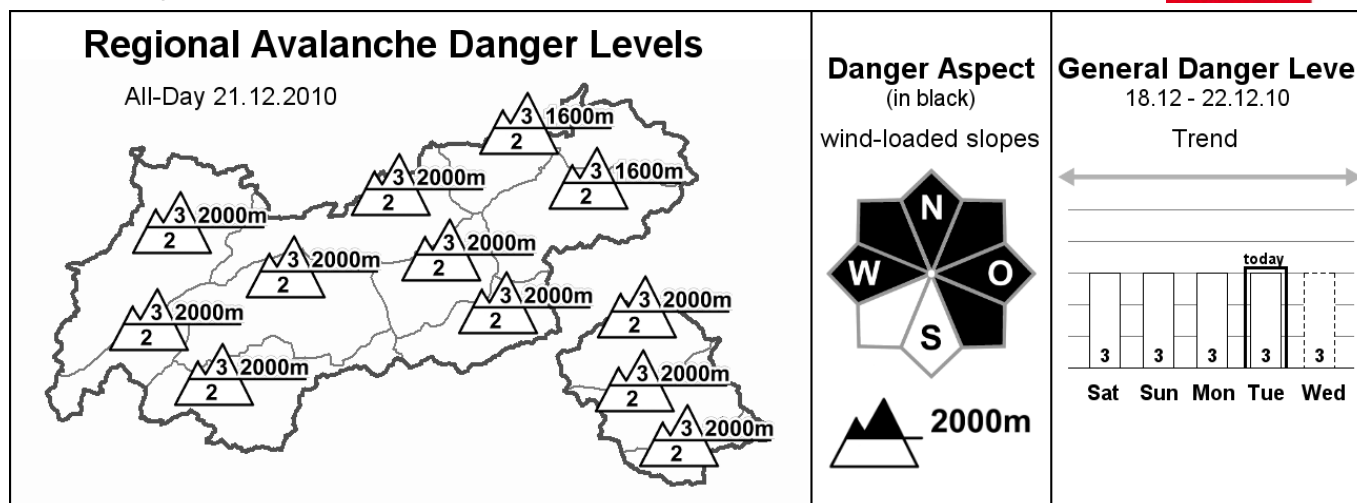


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 21.12.2010, at 07:30



Snowdrift above 2000 m has created considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is "considerable" far and wide. The major peril stems from the very recently formed snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in western to northern to southeastern exposition and generally in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines. Caution is also urged towards transition areas from deep to shallow snow. An avalanche can generally be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. At low and intermediate altitudes, naturally triggered full depth snowslides are possible.

SNOW LAYERING

Strong to storm-strength westerly winds shifted and re-deposited snowdrift masses above the treeline yesterday. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, in particular, are poorly bonded with the old snowpack, making them prone to triggering. The ongoing winds are creating highly varied and irregular snow distribution with drastic variations in snow depths even across small surfaces, including utterly windblown knolls or broad ridges right next to heavily drifted gullies and bowls.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a high altitude southwesterly current is bringing mild air masses to the Alps. By tomorrow, a powerful foehn wind syndrome will have developed. Mountain weather today: to begin with no impediments, except for strong southerly winds in exposed areas. Over the course of the day, cloudbanks will form, becoming denser on the southern flank of the Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge this afternoon. By this evening, snowfall is anticipated primarily in the region of the Ortler range. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. High altitude, moderate to strong velocity southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst southerly foehn winds, the avalanche danger persists

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe