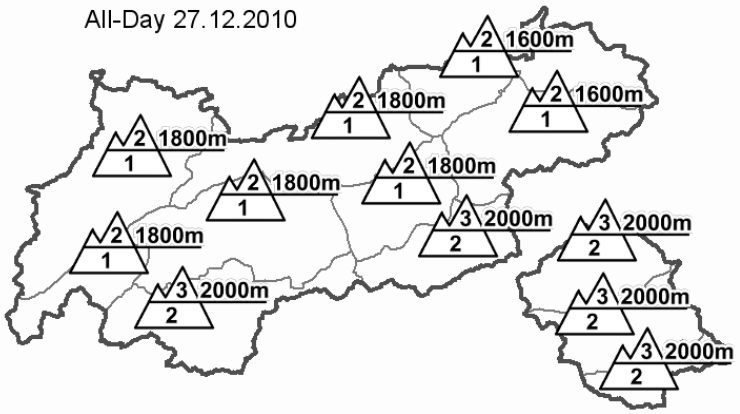
Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 27.12.2010, at 07:30

Regional Avalanche Danger Levels

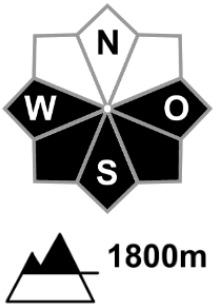
All-Day 27.12.2010



Danger Aspect

(in black)

wind-loaded slopes

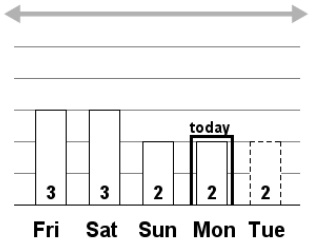


1800m

General Danger Level

24.12 - 28.12.10

Trend



The major danger: freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions

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AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude, and tends to increase as one progresses further south. The most adverse conditions are to be found in East Tyrol and in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Silvretta eastwards, where above approximately 2000 m the danger is considerable. Below that altitude the peril is moderate, below 1800 m it is generally low. In Tyrol's remaining regions, moderate danger generally prevails above 1800 m, low danger below that altitude. Great caution is urged in general towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, whose frequency increases with ascending altitude. Due to wind directions, such danger zones occur most often in areas adjacent to steep ridge lines in western to northern to southern exposition and in very steep gullies and bowls. The hazardous places can usually be recognized with ease by those with avalanche-assessing experience. Older snowdrift accumulations, on the other hand, are difficult to spot, and are especially trigger sensitive in steep, north facing terrain between 1800 and 2300 m and above 3000 m and in transition areas from shallow to deep snow; they can be unleashed often by large additional loading. Full depth snowslides are unlikely, except in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack up to intermediate altitudes has been influenced by the rainfall of Christmas Eve and the cold front which followed. At higher altitudes, the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, especially frequent and large sized in southern regions, are the major hallmark. As bed surfaces for avalanches, the boundary areas between loosely packed new fallen snow and fresh snowdrift, and also inside the snowpack, are potential hazards. Between about 1800 m and 2300 m are rain crusts which are encircled by loosely packed, faceted snow crystals. In high alpine regions, i.e. above approximately 3000 m, the snowpack near the ground consists mostly of depth hoar from early winter.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a northerly current is supplying arctic air masses to central Europe. Today an intermediate high will dominate. On Tuesday, a warm front will cause temperatures to rise and bring a bit of snowfall to the northern flank of the Alps, while rainfall and ice can be expected at low altitudes. Mountain weather today: towards the Kitzbühel Alps in particular, the mountains will be be shrouded in cloud this morning, possibly accompanied by light snowfall, before the visibility gradually improves. Then a sunny day can be expected throughout Tyrol, amidst low temperatures. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 15 to minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 20 degrees. Moderate northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As of tomorrow, strengthening winds will give rise to new snowdrift accumulations.

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