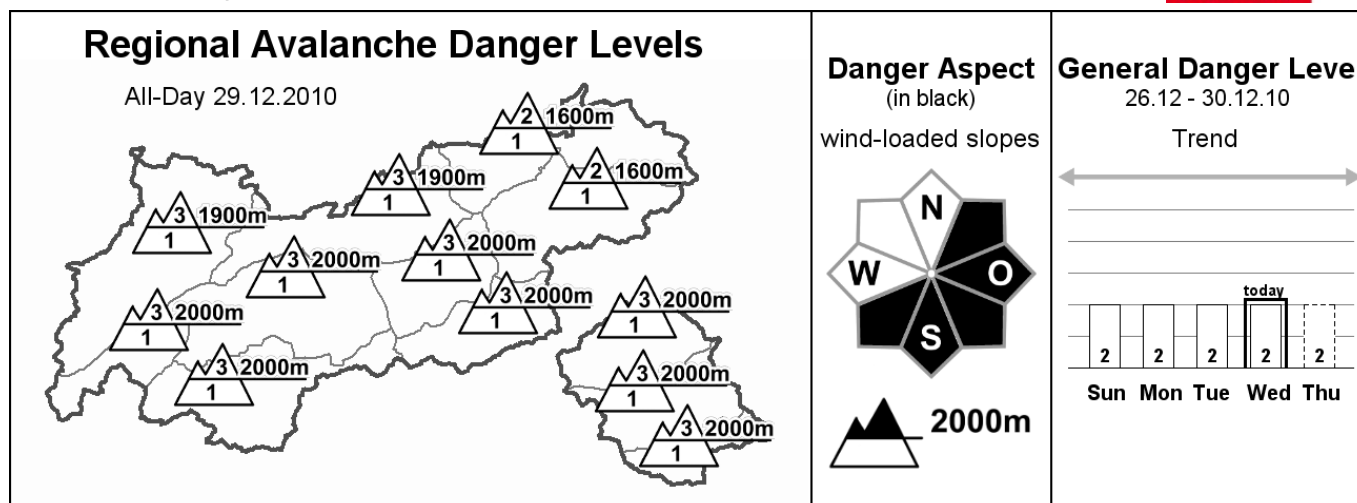


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 29.12.2010, at 07:30



Beware fresh, easily triggered snowdrift accumulations

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is currently dominated by the winds of recent days. Particularly in wind-exposed regions, fresh, highly trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations have formed which can be easily triggered by even minimum additional loading; whereas generally favourable conditions prevail in wind-protected regions. The avalanche danger continues to be contingent on altitude: below the treeline the peril is low, above it, the danger is often considerable, due to the sometimes strong winds, especially in western and southern regions. Avalanche prone locations are to be found frequently in areas adjacent to ridge lines in northeastern to southern to southwestern exposition as well as in gullies and bowls in general. The snowdrift masses can ordinarily be easily recognized. However, the most recent snowdrift is now blanketed over by new fallen snow, making it more difficult to spot. The old snowpack is no longer so easy to trigger, only steep, north facing slopes with shallow snow between 2100 and 2300 m and above approximately 3000 m are susceptible.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 5 to 15 cm of snowfall in Tyrol. High altitude winds were blowing at strong velocity, at very least strong enough to transport the loosely packed new snow in many places. The fresh snowdrift has been deposited atop loosely packed, cold, fresh fallen snow, or extremely light new fallen snow, making the overall mass prone to triggering. Inside the snowpack, particularly on north facing slopes between about 2100 and 2300 m, thin ice crusts are potential bed surfaces for avalanches; in high alpine regions, a fundament of depth hoar near the ground from springtime is also a potential peril.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: the precipitation of a warm front will sweep from west to east across Tyrol today, thereafter weather conditions will calm, a weak high is then expected to dominate until after New Year's Day. Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps, poor visibility to begin with, due to fog and light snowfall, which will move through the region between the Rofan range and Kitzbühel Alps, and onwards to the Tauern. Further to the west, bright spells are anticipated, with a mixture of residual clouds and occasional sunshine. In southern regions, the sun will be more evident around the Ortler range than further to the east. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds, initially the wind will be stronger at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will gradually recede.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe