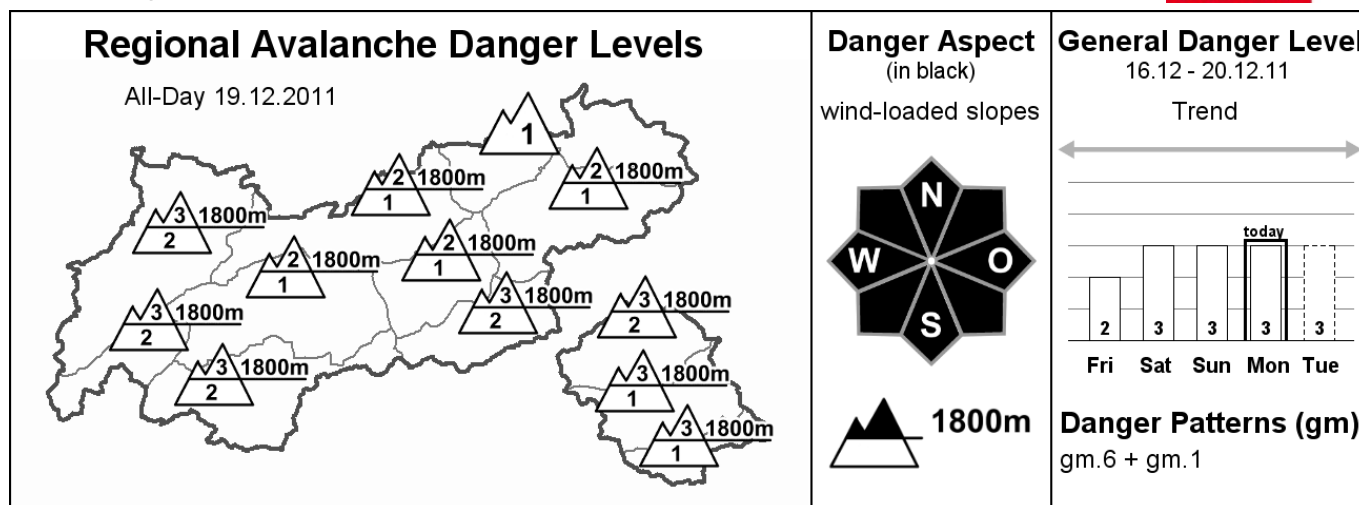


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 19.12.2011, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 1800 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tirol is considerable far and wide. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. The situation in the areas where snowfall was heaviest, i.e. the Arlberg/Ausserfern, Silvretta, along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tirol, is most critical. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier. Naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Since snowdrift accumulations have often been blanketed over by new fallen snow, it requires experience in assessing avalanche dangers to recognise these danger zones. The eastern regions of North Tirol, where there has been little snowfall, are in a more favourable situation.

SNOW LAYERING

The fresh fallen snow from the most recent period of precipitation is settling only slowly. A markedly weak layer is to be found on shady slopes above approximately 2400 m in particular, where the snow from autumn has mutated to loosely packed, unbonded depth hoar. This weak layer is most pronounced along the Main Alpine Ridge. An additional weakness is the borderline between the latest new fallen snow and the snowdrift which has been deposited on top of it. These snowdrift masses are very brittle, due to the low temperatures, making them easy to trigger as avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low coupled to a weak northwesterly air current has the Alps in its grip. On Tuesday, the next weather turbulence will bring snowfall to Tirol from the northwest, particularly to the northern flank of the Alps. South and East Tirol will get less snowfall. Thereafter, the variable conditions will continue, accompanied by cold. Mountain weather today: for the most part variably cloudy, with intermittent sunshine in the mountains, and bitter cold. Along the Northern Alps it will be heavily overcast, with very little sunshine and a few snow flurries at the start of the day. The Dolomites of South Tirol will get the most sunshine. The next significant bout of precipitation is expected on Tuesday night. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 20 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds, at higher altitudes the winds will be brisk.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Due to approaching snowfall, the avalanche danger is not expected to decrease.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe