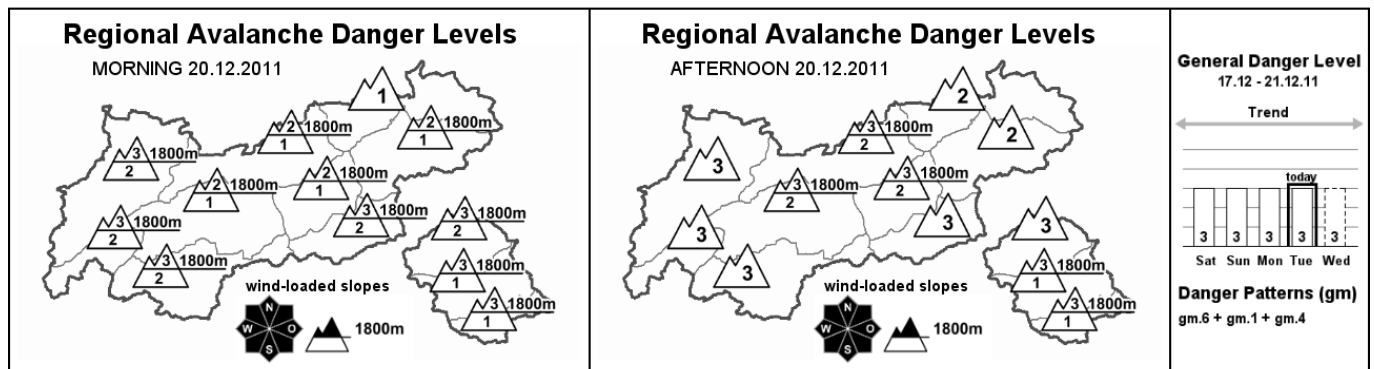


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 20.12.2011, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread, further escalating this afternoon

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol is considerable widespread. As snowfall and wind set in this afternoon, the hazard level will escalate again. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions, particularly above approximately 1800 m. The major peril stems from older and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations; they are brittle because of the low temperatures, making them easy to be triggered. In general, even minimum additional loading is sufficient, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Attention: many new snowdrift accumulations are expected to form over the course of the day today, increasing in frequency with ascending altitude.

SNOW LAYERING

New fallen snow and snowdrift from the most recent round of precipitation are settling and consolidating only slowly, due to the low temperatures. Particularly in high alpine, shady terrain, caution is urged: residual snow from autumn has transformed to loosely packed, unbonded depth hoar in the interim, resulting in a very poor fundament for the succeeding layers of snow. A greater proneness to triggering is also evident at the borderline of the fresh fallen snow and the snowdrift deposited on top of it. In addition, a thin, weak layer has formed inside the snowpack up to intermediate altitudes in isolated places, due to the highly varying temperatures.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: The Alps are in the path of a northwesterly air current in a low pressure system. On Tuesday night, a warm front will bring significant snowfall to Tyrol. On Thursday, further snowfall is anticipated from the clouds clinging to the northern Alpine barrier. On Friday, an intermediate high is expected. Mountain weather today: from the west weather conditions will deteriorate this morning; in the eastern mountain ranges and on the southern flank of the Alps, weak sunshine is expected. This afternoon, snowfall will begin, with winds becoming stronger. In the western mountain ranges, 20 to 40 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated by Wednesday morning, elsewhere 10 to 30 cm. Temperature at 2000 m: rising from minus 13 to minus 8 degrees by this evening; at 3000 m: increasing from minus 18 to minus 14 degrees over the course of the day. Brisk to strong velocity northwesterly winds at high altitude.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowfall and winds will cause avalanche danger to rise.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe