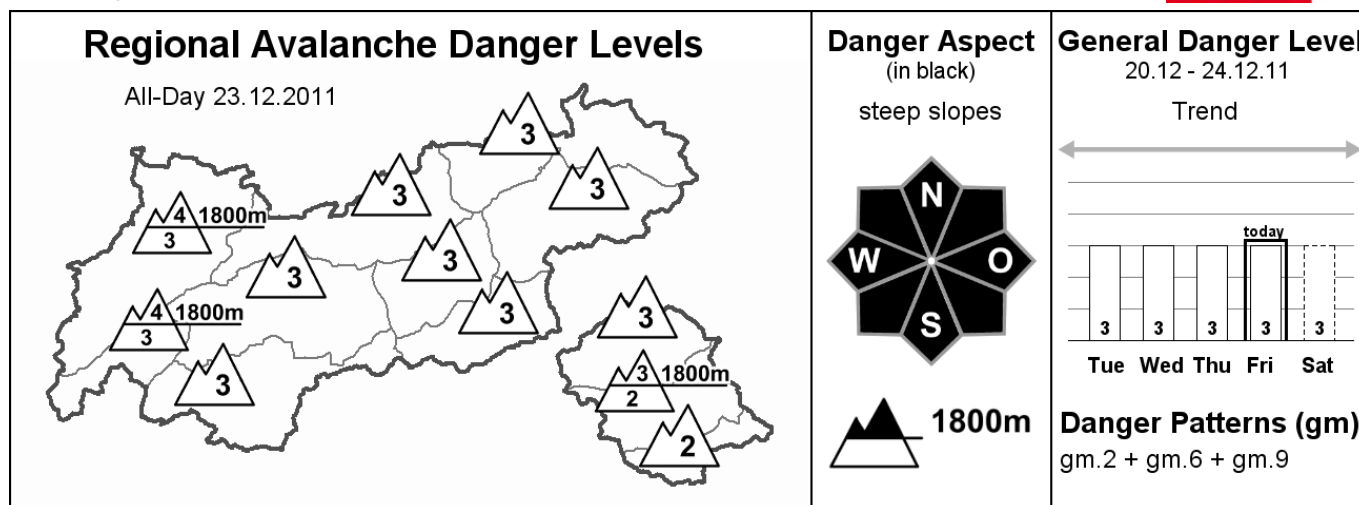


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 23.12.2011, at 07:30



Rising temperatures bring about critical avalanche situation

AVALANCHE DANGER

Drastically rising temperatures will escalate the avalanche hazards to their high point today, bringing about a critical situation. The avalanche danger level in the Arlberg/Ausserfern and Silvretta regions is high. Increasingly frequent naturally triggered avalanches, which can also endanger exposed transportation routes, can be expected. Below about 2400 m, in addition, caution is urged towards full depth snowslides. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, the greatest possible caution and restraint is necessary. In the remaining regions, the danger level is at least "considerable". Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In addition, naturally triggered full depth snowslides are possible at low and intermediate altitudes. Extensive experience in evaluating the avalanche situation is imperative on backcountry skiing and freeriding tours.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been heavy snowfall in the Arlberg, Silvretta and along the Main Alpine Ridge in particular. Since Tuesday in the Arlberg/Ausserfern and Silvretta regions, as well as along the Northern Alps, there has been as much as one meter of new fallen snow. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, on East Tirol's Tauern Ridge and in the Lower Inn Valley, there was 40 to 60 cm of snowfall. In inneralpine regions there was less; and least of all in southern East Tirol. With the rising temperatures, the snowfall level has ascended towards 2000 m. The snowpack has become increasingly moist up to intermediate altitudes, due to rainfall. Attention: some of yesterday's precipitation was in the form of graupel, which has created a pronounced weak layer inside the snowpack. Particular caution is also urged towards the trigger sensitive fundament of depth hoar on shady, high alpine slopes and towards the deep snowdrift accumulations in the areas where snowfall was heaviest.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: yesterday's precipitation is withdrawing, a weak high pressure system today briefly moves in from the west, the air temperature is rising. The next cold front will follow already on Saturday. Mountain weather today: poor visibility still this morning, due to clouds, fog and some snowfall above 1400 m. Freezing level will be at 2500 m this afternoon. Northerly winds will make it sunny in the Southern Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 degrees. Moderate to brisk winds at high altitudes from north to northwest.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As temperatures drop noticeably, avalanche danger will recede

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe