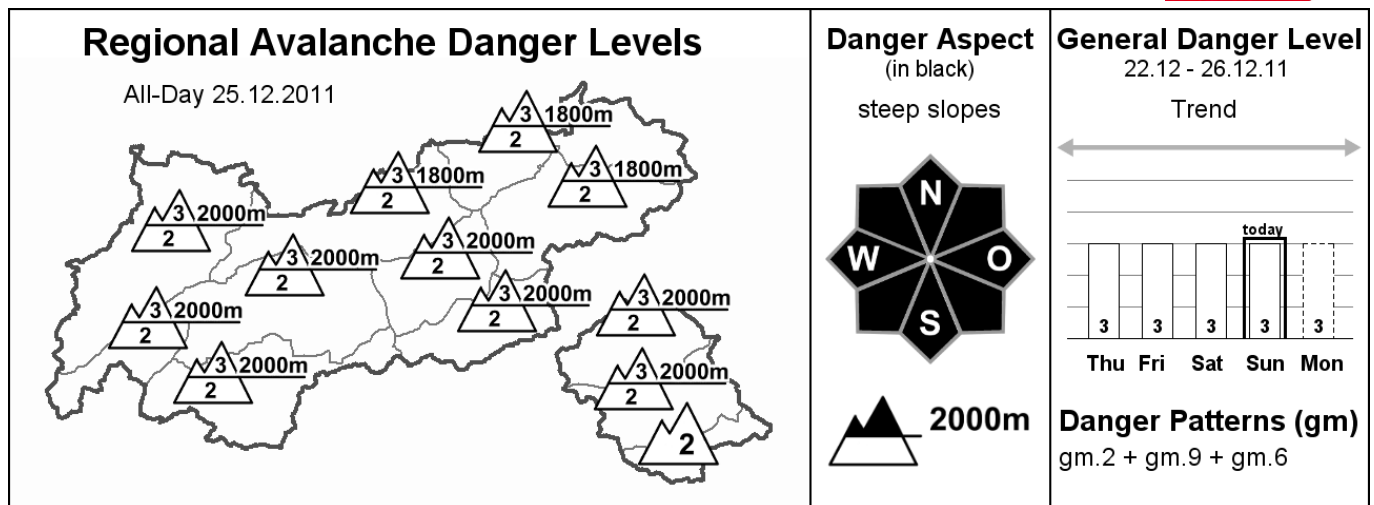


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 25.12.2011, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tirol's backcountry touring regions the avalanche danger level is considerable widespread. The major peril stems from freshly formed, relatively small sized snowdrift masses which are inadequately bonded with the old snowpack surface in general and thus, can be triggered with relative ease. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, especially above approximately 2000 m. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours require great caution and extensive experience in evaluating avalanche dangers. Below about 2200 m, particularly on steep, grassy slopes, naturally triggered full depth snowslides are possible.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10 to 20 cm of snowfall above approximately 1200 m in North Tirol and along the Tauern Ridge of East Tirol. Strong westerly to northwesterly winds have given rise to new snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions in particular. Fresh fallen snow and snowdrift of the week drawing to a close now blanket an old snowpack which is increasingly settling and consolidating. Caution is urged towards two highly trigger sensitive layers: first, the fundament in high alpine, shady terrain is frequently unbonded depth hoar; second, the graupel which was embedded into the snowpack in many regions yesterday provides an ideal bed surface for the snowdrift masses which have been deposited on top of it.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A warm front is brushing past Tirol today from the northwest. The wedge-shaped high pressure front from the west will regain strength tomorrow, Monday, and then be the dominant factor in Tirol's weather until Wednesday. On Thursday, a cold front is expected to arrive. Mountain weather today: some sunshine this morning, although residual fogbanks will persist particularly in the Lower Inn Valley. From Ausserfern, clouds will spread over the peaks and by this afternoon become more dense and shroud a number of mountain summits. Light snowfall is then possible. In the Southern Alps it will be sunnier. Temperature at 2000 m: warming up from minus 11 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: rising from minus 17 to minus 9 degrees. A moderate velocity northwesterly wind will be blowing; in inneralpine regions winds will be lighter, especially below 2000 m.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is receding somewhat

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe