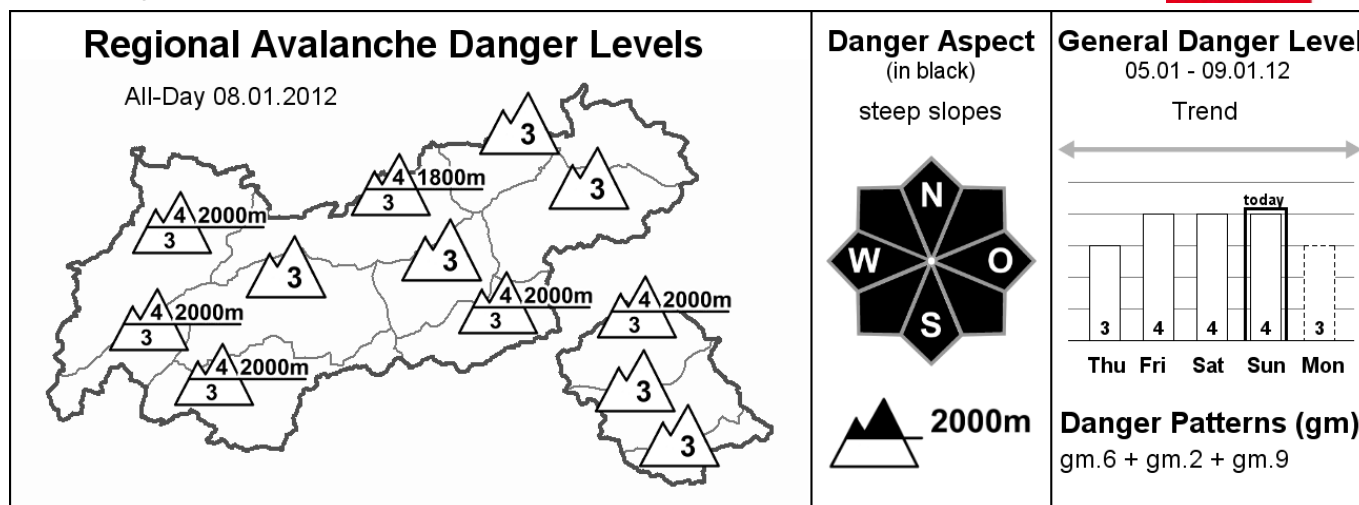


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 08.01.2012, at 07:30



Avalanche danger still high from region to region

AVALANCHE DANGER

Regionally, the avalanche danger level above approximately 2000 m in Tirol is still high. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which continually form afresh over the course of the day. They can be triggered as avalanches even by minimum additional loading. Particularly in the regions where the snowfall was heaviest, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected again today. In corridors where avalanches have not yet been released, more than anywhere else, they can attain large size and thereby endanger exposed sectors of transportation routes. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours require extensive experience; those without long practice in evaluating avalanche dangers should remain on the ski runs which have been secured. The situation below the treeline is the most favourable, particularly due to reduced winds there.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there have been the following amounts of snowfall: Silvretta-Arlberg-Ausserfern, 20 to 40 cm; western part of Northern Alps, 20 - 30 cm; Stubai, Ötztal and Zillertal Alps, 15 to 25 cm; Tux and Kitzbühel Alps, 15 to 30 cm; Tauern in East Tirol, 15 to 25 cm, central and southern East Tirol, maximum 20 cm. Thus, since the beginning of the current period of precipitation on Thursday, there has been 80 to 150 cm (non-settled) of new fallen snow in the barrier cloud regions of the Alps. A far ranging helicopter exploration yesterday revealed above average snow depths, extremely large wind impact, i.e. some places blown utterly free of snow immediately adjacent to deep drifts. Observed naturally triggered avalanches: most are medium sized slab avalanches, some loosely packed avalanches, and numerous full depth snowslides. All in all, the situation is no longer quite as threatening as it was on Friday. Attention: the strong northwesterly wind will continue to bring about massive snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: In the path of a powerful northwesterly air current, moist air masses are being supplied to the northern side of the Alps, where, blocked by the mountain flanks, they are releasing intense precipitation from region to region. On Monday in western regions, weather conditions will improve, the focal point of the precipitation will move eastwards. Mountain weather today: Poor visibility on the northern flank of the Alps. This will be accompanied by repeated bouts of snowfall, most persistent in the cloud barrier areas. By Monday morning, an additional 30 to 40 cm of new fallen snow is possible; in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is anticipated. At higher altitudes, massive snow drifting will continue. In the Dolomites and Carnic Alps it will be generally dry, amidst bright spells created by the northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Strong northwesterly wind at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As precipitation slackens off, avalanche danger will gradually recede

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe