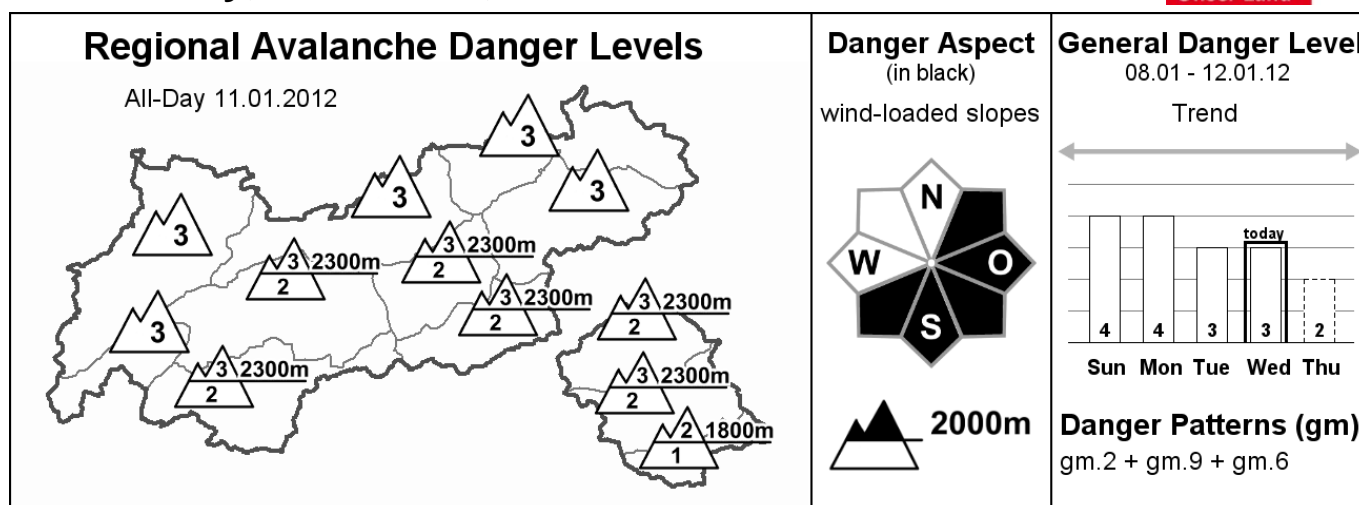


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 11.01.2012, at 07:30



Daytime danger will rise slightly - Beware gliding snow and fresh drift

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions of Silvretta-Samnaun, Arlberg-Ausserfern, Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps, considerable danger prevails; in the remaining regions of Tyrol the hazards are contingent on altitude. Above approximately 2300 m the danger level is considerable; below that altitude, moderate. In southern East Tyrol above approximately 1800 m, the danger level is moderate, below that altitude it is low. Through the solar radiation and daytime warming cycle, the avalanche danger will rise slightly around midday. As of then, small, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected on very steep slopes near ridgelines. Backcountry skiers and freeriders are urged to exercise general caution towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2000 m today. They are to be found increasingly frequently in areas near ridgelines of northeastern to eastern to southwestern aspect and can be triggered even by the weight of a single person. The likelihood of triggering increases with ascending altitude. The major peril, however, stems from full depth snowslides, which can be released on steep, grassy slopes and occur with increasing frequency at low and intermediate altitudes in all aspects. They announce imminent release through glide cracks in the snowpack surface. Thus, the zones beneath such cracks should be avoided altogether.

SNOW LAYERING

The automated weather stations show that the snow has settled significantly, which in turn has stabilised the snowpack. One potentially weak layer for slab avalanches is the graupel which embedded itself inside the snowpack yesterday, particularly in the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps. Elsewhere, yesterday's drifted snow is poorly bonded to the cold, loosely packed old snowpack beneath it, making it easily triggerable. In its deeper layers, the snowpack is generally stable, especially in the regions of North Tyrol where snowfall was heaviest. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m, there is still a layer of depth hoar near the ground; in northern aspects it occurs as of 2500 m, in all other aspects as of 3000 m. This layer is most easily disturbed in transition areas from shallow to deep snow.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a high pressure zone over the Atlantic has spread its effects to the Alps and will dominate the weather in western Austria today and tomorrow. Temperatures will rise significantly at high altitude. On Friday, a cold front will brush past the northern flank of the Alps, bringing snow showers. Thereafter, a period of lower temperatures is anticipated. Mountain weather today: between the Zillertal and Kitzbühel Alps and in the Lofer Steinberge, heavy cloud cover will persist down to low altitudes until later in the morning. Further to the west and south, there will be sunny skies from the start. The clouds in eastern Tyrol will be gone by midday, by and large. The freezing level will climb towards 2000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 to minus 4 degrees. Moderate northerly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger is receding, the major peril remains full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe