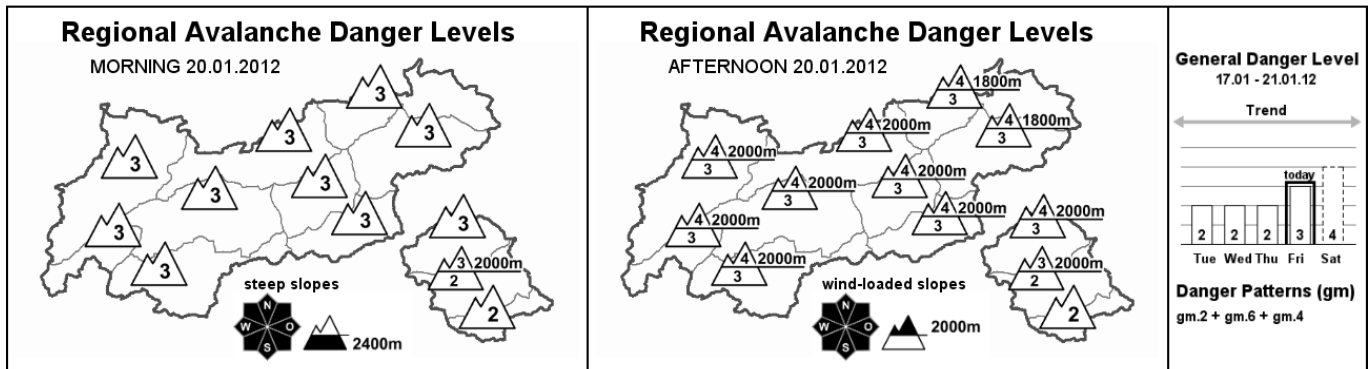


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 20.01.2012, at 07:30



Escalating avalanche danger - regionally high this afternoon

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol will increase this afternoon, from region to region it may even rise to "high" (Level 4). Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Attention: the frequency and extent of danger spots will increase as the snowfall intensifies this afternoon. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours make experience in evaluating avalanche dangers essential. Below about 2400 m, naturally triggered full depth snowslides can be expected widespread. They can attain medium size and thus, place exposed sections of transportation routes at risk.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 10 to 20 cm of snowfall in high alpine regions. The snowfall level was over 2000 m yesterday, descended towards 1500 m this morning and will drop down to the valley floors as the cold front strikes. The old snowpack has settled and consolidated well. At low and intermediate altitudes, rainfall has made it thoroughly wet, bringing about some loss of firmness. On the positive side, the rain has for the most part dissolved the weak upper layers of faceted crystals and surface hoar. In high alpine, shady terrain along the Main Alpine Ridge, the fundament often consists of loosely packed, unbonded depth hoar. Caution: the storm strength westerly winds, later shifting to northwesterly, will ongoingly transport the snow and bring about new snowdrift accumulations.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A cold front will traverse Tirol from the north today, bringing intensive snowfall in parts of the northern barrier regions, accompanied by strong winds. On Saturday, a warm front will move in from the northwest, the snowfall level will ascend again. The moist northwesterly air current will persist until Sunday at least. Mountain weather today: snowfall and storm winds, with focus on the barrier regions on the northern flank of the Alps. From the Lechtal Alps over the Arlberg into the Silvretta, 30 to 50 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated; in the Lower Inn Valley and on the Main Alpine Ridge, 20 to 40 cm of fresh fallen snow by Saturday morning. In the Southern Alps, only light snow showers, accompanied by intermittent northerly winds and occasional sunshine. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 degrees. Strong to stormy northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst snowfall and stormy northwesterly winds, avalanche danger will continue to rise

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe