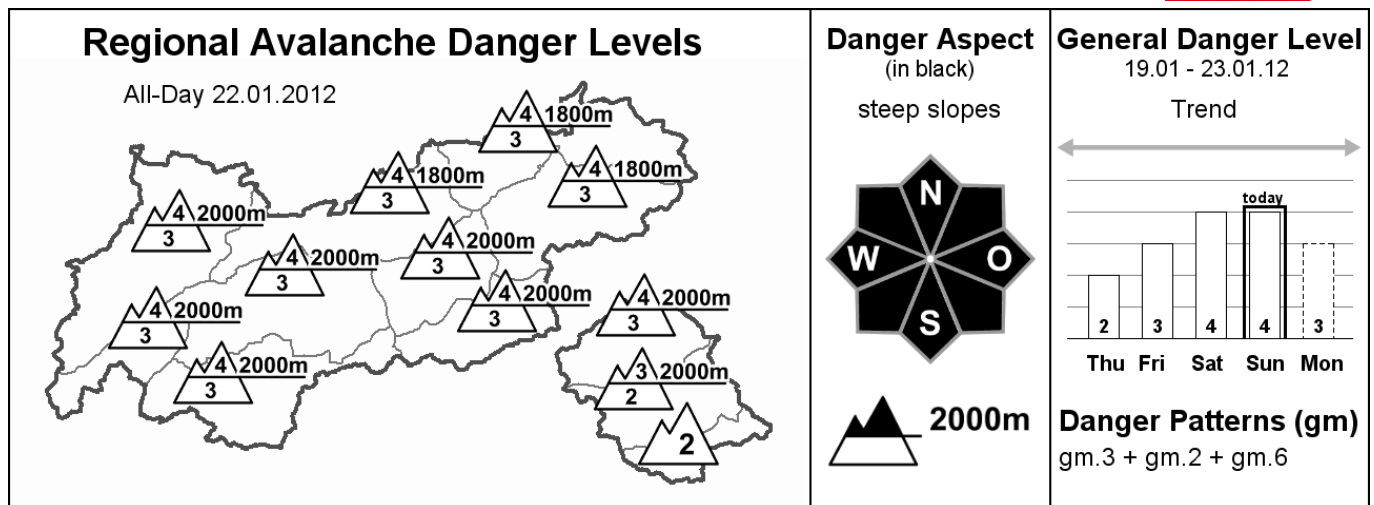


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 22.01.2012, at 07:30



Critical avalanche situation, danger is high widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tirol's backcountry touring regions, critical conditions prevail, including high avalanche danger. Two distinct danger scenarios demand attention: above approximately 2000 m, the major peril stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, in some cases they can even trigger naturally. Below about 2400 m, due to a thoroughly wet snowpack, naturally triggered full depth snowslides and moist, loosely packed snow avalanches are the main hazard. They can attain large size, thus placing exposed sections of transportation routes at risk. Those without experience in evaluating avalanche dangers are urgently advised not to leave the secured ski runs!

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday, Saturday, a cold front delivered an additional 20 to 40 cm of snowfall to the barrier regions. During the afternoon, the snowfall came to an end; then during the night, a warm front brought rainfall to about 1500 - 1800 m. The snowfall level is expected to drop continually today. Since Thursday evening in the Northern Alps, Ausserfern, Arlberg and Silvretta there has been 80 to more than 100 cm of new fallen snow. In the Stubai and Ötztal Alps, the Tux, Zillertal and Kitzbühel Alps, there was generally 50 to 70 cm of fresh fallen snow. In East Tirol on the Tauern Ridge, maximum 50 cm; in the Central Alps 20 to 30 cm; in southern regions less. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack has settled significantly due to the rising temperatures. However, the loss of firmness in the thoroughly wet snowpack makes caution imperative. In high alpine regions the strong to storm velocity northwesterly wind gave rise ongoingly to new snowdrift masses, which are still inadequately bonded with the old snowpack, making them trigger sensitive. Along the Main Alpine Ridge in particular, a weak fundament of depth hoar requires special caution.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol lies in the path of a northwesterly air current in which a cold front is embedded which will traverse the land today. On the heels of that, drier air will reach us tomorrow, improving weather conditions temporarily. On Tuesday, the next cold front will arrive, temperatures will drop and snowfall down to low lying areas is expected. Mountain weather today: storm and snowfall in the Northern Alps will persist until midday, but maximum 10 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated. Towards the Main Alpine Ridge, only snow flurries, accompanied by stormy winds and bright intervals. This afternoon, the precipitation will slacken off in general, but the wind will persist. In the Southern Alps, conditions will be noticeably more pleasant, amidst northerly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Strong to stormy northwesterly winds, particularly in the Northern Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Danger of slab avalanches has receded slightly. Full depth snowslides continue to be possible.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe