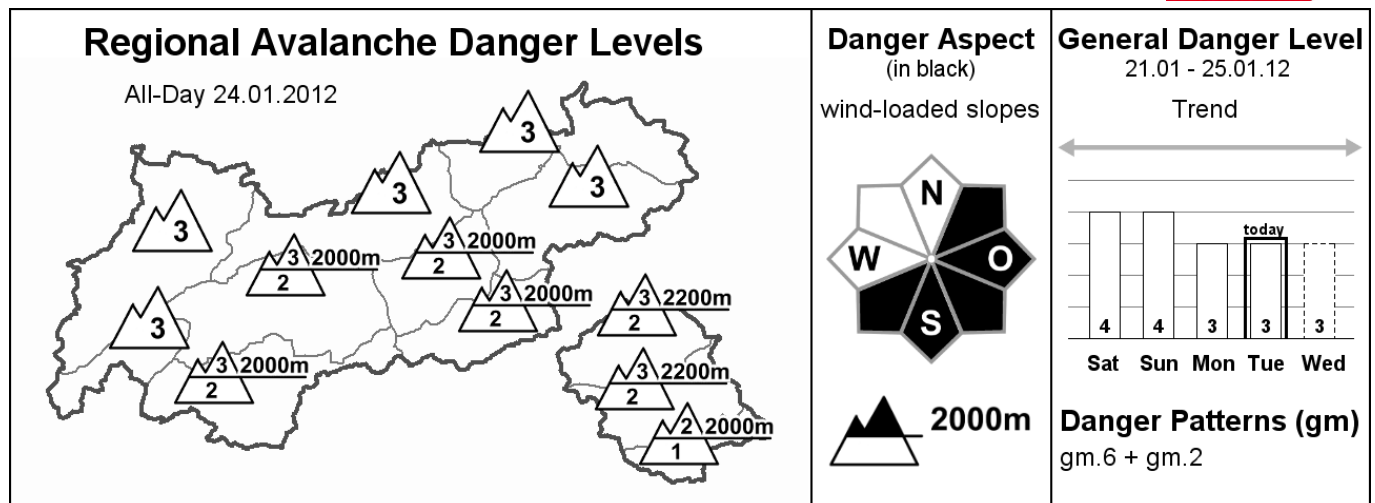


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 24.01.2012, at 07:30



Avalanche danger will continue to escalate during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tirol will increase anew as the precipitation continues. However, the danger level is not expected to reach Level 4 in the North Tirolean regions which have the most snow. Naturally triggered slab avalanches are expected only in isolated cases, on very steep, wind-protected slopes near ridgelines in northeastern to eastern to southern aspects above approximately 2300 m. Nonetheless, the situation remains treacherous for backcountry skiers and freeriders wherever snowfall has been heavy, particularly in the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions and the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in those regions, even by minimum additional loading. This is also the case above 2300 m in Tirol's remaining regions, where the snowdrift masses are not as deep. Further, below about 2400 m, full depth snowslides, which due to the above average snow depths can easily attain medium size, can still be released on steep, grassy slopes. In addition, in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m in shady, very steep transition areas from shallow to deep snow, slab avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading.

SNOW LAYERING

Snowfall set in during the night in North Tirol. In Arlberg-Ausserfern, the Northern Alps and the northern Kitzbühel Alps, there has already been 20 to 30 cm of new fallen snow; in remaining Tirol, generally about 10 cm; in East Tirol, only a small amount. The northwesterly wind continues to blow at snow-transporting velocities. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be released, especially above approximately 2000 m, and their proneness to triggering increases with ascending altitude. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m, a fundament of depth hoar can be triggered in isolated cases.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a low pressure system hangs over northern and eastern Europe and dominates conditions in the Alps. On the heels of a cold front, cold sea air is streaming from the northwest to the Alps today. By tomorrow, the air pressure will rise and conditions improve. Mountain weather today: snowfall particularly in the northern and northwestern barrier regions between the Arlberg, Lechtal Alps and the Karwendel as far as the Kitzbühel Alps, where by evening an additional 20 to 30 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated. On the southern flank of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be sunnier. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 17 degrees. Brisk to strong, gusty northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

General avalanche danger will recede again presently, but loosely packed avalanches are increasingly expected from craggy terrain.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe