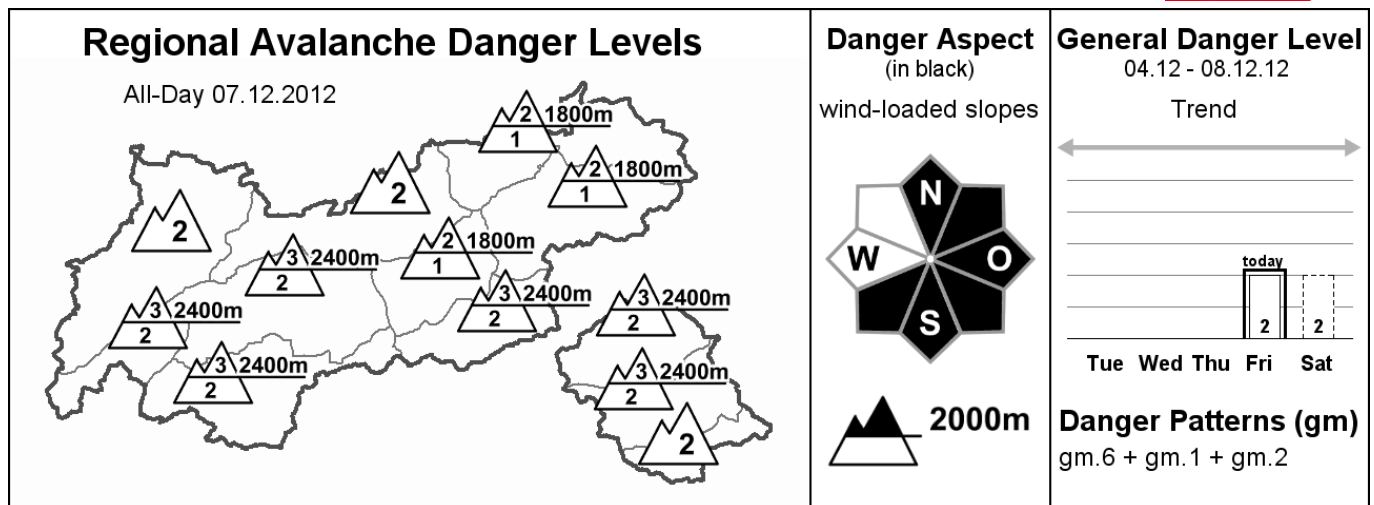


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 07.12.2012, at 07:30



Beware fresh snow drift accumulations - Caution on very steep, shady slopes on Main Alpine Ridge

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2400 m, considerable danger prevails; below that altitude the danger is moderate; below the tree line it is frequently low. In the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions, the hazards are moderate, in remaining Tirol above about 1800 m moderate, below that altitude low. The major peril currently stems from fresh snow drift accumulations in very steep terrain, on the one hand, particularly in north to east to southwest facing areas adjacent to ridge lines and in general behind rock rims in the terrain. This proneness to triggering increases with ascending altitude and intensifying winds over the course of the day. With experience in avalanche evaluation, the danger spots can be easily recognized, visibility permitting. On the other hand, caution is also urged in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2400 m in shady, very steep terrain, where slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snow cover even by minimum additional loading. On steep, grass covered slopes at low and intermediate altitudes, furthermore, the snowpack can release.

SNOW LAYERING

Winter has arrived in Tirol. The heaviest snowfall is currently registered in the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions, in the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and in East Tirol; the least snowfall is in eastern parts of North Tirol. The snowfall of last week fell on bare ground in many places; on shady slopes above about 1800 m, it was deposited on top of a relatively cohesive old snowpack from autumn. Inside this old snowpack up to at least 2400 m many rain crusts are embedded, in the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge as far up as 2900 m. Surrounding these crusts, faceted snow crystals have formed. Especially above about 2400 m, snow analysis has shown that these layers are often inadequately bonded with each other, making them trigger sensitive.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: wintery and cold, and on top of that, windy. Between the Dolomites and Carnic Alps, sunshine will persist until after midday; elsewhere heavy cloud will move in from the west, visibility will deteriorate, as of midday more and more summits will be veiled in cloud. Later on, light to moderate snowfall will set in. By tomorrow morning, 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected, most of it falling on the Main Alpine Ridge and the Arlberg. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate to strong westerly to southwesterly winds. Weather in general: a low over the North Sea will move over the Alps towards the Adriatic Sea by tomorrow, bringing some snowfall with it. In its wake, an intermediate high will persist until Sunday. On the southern flank of the Alps, a steep air pressure gradient will form, making it very windy as of Saturday.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Winds will create new, trigger sensitive snow drift accumulations.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe