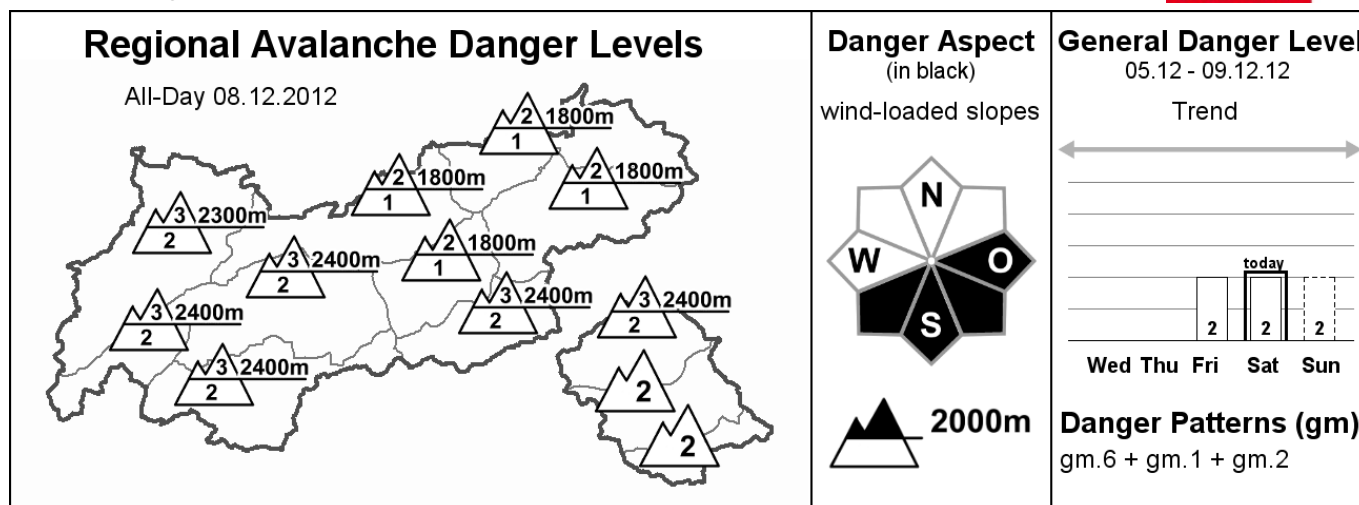


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 08.12.2012, at 07:30



Fresh snow drift behind rock rims - Caution on very steep, shady slopes on Main Ridge

AVALANCHE DANGER

In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps above approximately 2400 m, considerable danger prevails; below that altitude the peril is moderate; beneath the tree line, low. In the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions where snowfall has been heaviest, the danger is considerable above approximately 2300, due to the far ranging freshly formed snow drift accumulations; below that altitude, it is moderate. In the remaining parts of Tirol, the hazards depend on the altitude: below the tree line, the danger level is low; above it, moderate. Winter sports lovers should pay close heed to the freshly formed snow drift accumulations which are especially prevalent above the tree line in areas adjacent to ridge lines in eastern to southern to southwestern aspects, as well as in general behind crested rims. In very steep terrain they can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Slides or small sized avalanches can be expected for the most part. With some experience in evaluating avalanche hazards, these danger spots can be easily recognized and avoided. The situation is more treacherous in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps above approximately 2400 m, where slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snow, particularly in very steep terrain in west-northwestern to northern to east-northeastern aspects. In western regions and in East Tirol below about 2000 m, furthermore, caution is urged towards full depth snowslides on steep, grass covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

There has again been some snowfall in Tirol. In the Arlberg region there was as much as 10 cm, elsewhere lesser amounts. The strong northerly winds at high altitudes have once more transported the snow. Snow drift accumulations are brittle, due to the low temperatures, and can fracture at the borderline with the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it. Inside the old snowpack, particularly above approximately 2400 m in west-northwestern to northern to east-northeastern aspects, markedly faceted layers can be found surrounding rain crusts and melt-freeze crusts which could serve as potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: icy cold mountain weather, amidst cloudbanks and some snowfall. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 17 degrees. Northerly winds. Weather in general: a low will dominate weather conditions well into next week; it will remain wintery cold.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

New snow drift accumulations are expected, due to frequently strong northeasterly winds.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe