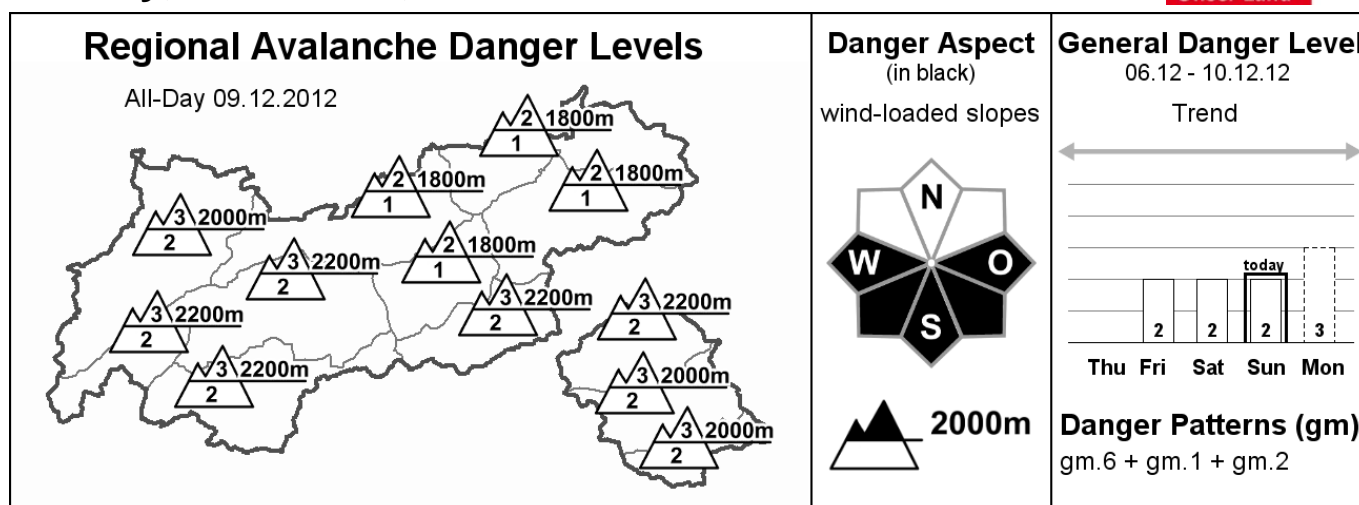


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 09.12.2012, at 07:30



As the wind intensifies, new trigger-sensitive snow drift accumulations will form

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on both the altitude and wind influence in the mountains. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps above approximately 2200 m, considerable danger prevails; below that altitude it is moderate; beneath the tree line it is low. In the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions and in central East Tirol and the East Tirolean Dolomites, the peril above approximately 2000 m is considerable, below that altitude moderate. In remaining Tirol the hazards are moderate above the tree line, low beneath it. The major peril to winter sports fans stems from freshly formed snow drift accumulations which, due to the low temperatures, are brittle and thus can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In general, small avalanches are anticipated, in areas adjacent to ridge lines isolated medium sized ones. The frequency of snow drift accumulations tends to increase with ascending altitude. The benefit: with some experience in evaluating avalanche hazards, the danger spots can be easily recognized and thus, avoided. A further danger: slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snow cover in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, in central East Tirol and in the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps in very steep terrain in west-northwestern to northern to east-northeastern aspects. On grass covered slopes in the regions which have had the heaviest snowfall, caution is also urged towards full depth snowslides.

SNOW LAYERING

The decisive factor is currently the cold, loosely packed new fallen snow which has been blanketed over by snow drift. At the borderline separating these two layers, avalanches can currently be triggered with great ease. Above approximately 2400 m, in addition, especially in west-northwestern to northern to east-northeastern aspects in very steep terrain there are faceted snow crystals between rain crusts and melt-freeze crusts which are a potential bed surface for slab avalanches

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: in the Northern Alps, clouds are moving in from the north. To begin with they will remain above summit level, then drop in altitude and become more dense this afternoon, accompanied by light snowfall. On the Main Alpine Ridge and the southern flank of the Alps, sunshine and better visibility, but icy cold northerly winds on some ridges, which will intensify over the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Moderate, this afternoon intensifying northwesterly winds. Weather in general: a low from the North Sea is traversing the Alps and rapidly dispersing the currently prevailing intermediate high. A front system will reach North Tirol tonight, bringing a phase of deep winter and to some extent heavy snowfall. The southern flank of the Alps will remain cordoned off from this front.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Increasing avalanche danger, amidst snowfall and wind

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe