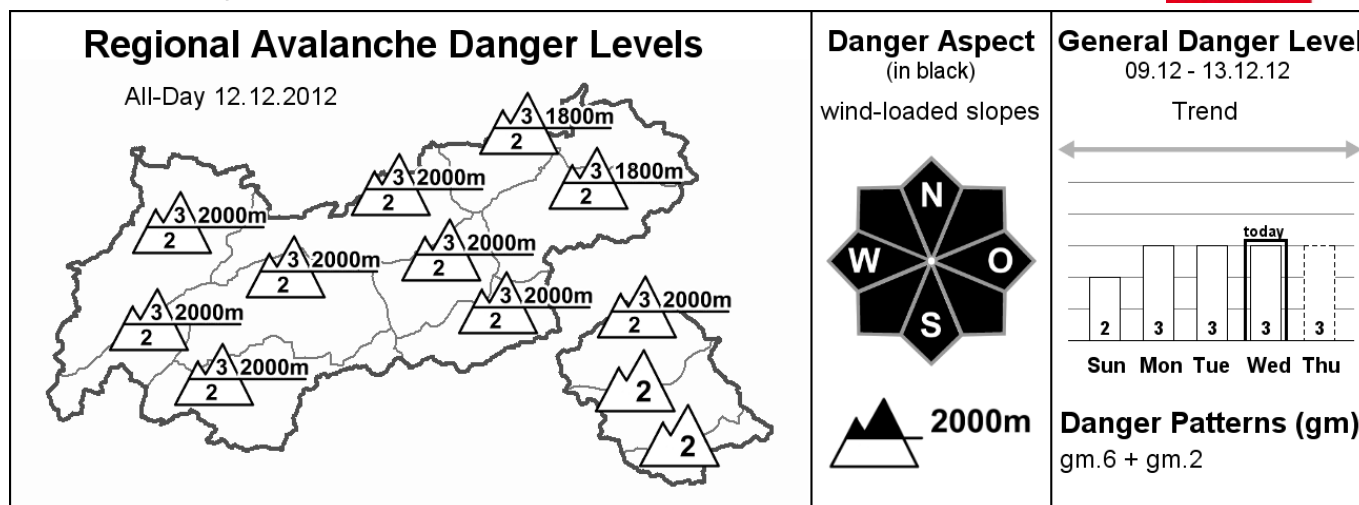


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 12.12.2012, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger widespread - Beware snow drift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions remains considerable far and wide. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m more than anywhere else. Freshly formed and older snow drift accumulations are generally not well bonded with the surface of the old snowpack and thus can be triggered as avalanches even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single winter sports fan. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours continue to require experience in evaluating avalanche hazards. On steep, grass covered slopes below about 2000 m, furthermore, isolated naturally triggered full depth snowslides can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been additional snowfall along the Northern Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge. The moderate to brisk high altitude northwesterly winds have given rise to new snow drift accumulations especially in high alpine regions. Fresh fallen and drifted snow from the last few days are inadequately bonded with the loosely packed snow beneath it, making it trigger sensitive. The fundament of the old snowpack consists frequently of loosely packed, unbonded snow crystals above about 2200 m. In many cases, hardened crusts are embedded inside the old snow cover.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The northwesterly air current over Tyrol is being weakened by a high pressure front. On Thursday, temperatures will rise somewhat. On Friday, a westerly current will bring milder air. On the weekend temperatures will remain above zero but susceptible to precipitation. Mountain weather today: emerging sunshine, frequently cloudless skies in most regions. In the Kitzbühel Alps and Wilder Kaiser, it will take a bit longer for the sun to prevail. The northerly wind will intensify the cold noticeably, particularly from the Zillertal Alps eastwards. Tonight, temperatures will already begin to rise. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 12 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 degrees. Moderate northerly to northwesterly winds, increasing in velocity towards the Hohe Tauern.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will recede only incrementally.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe