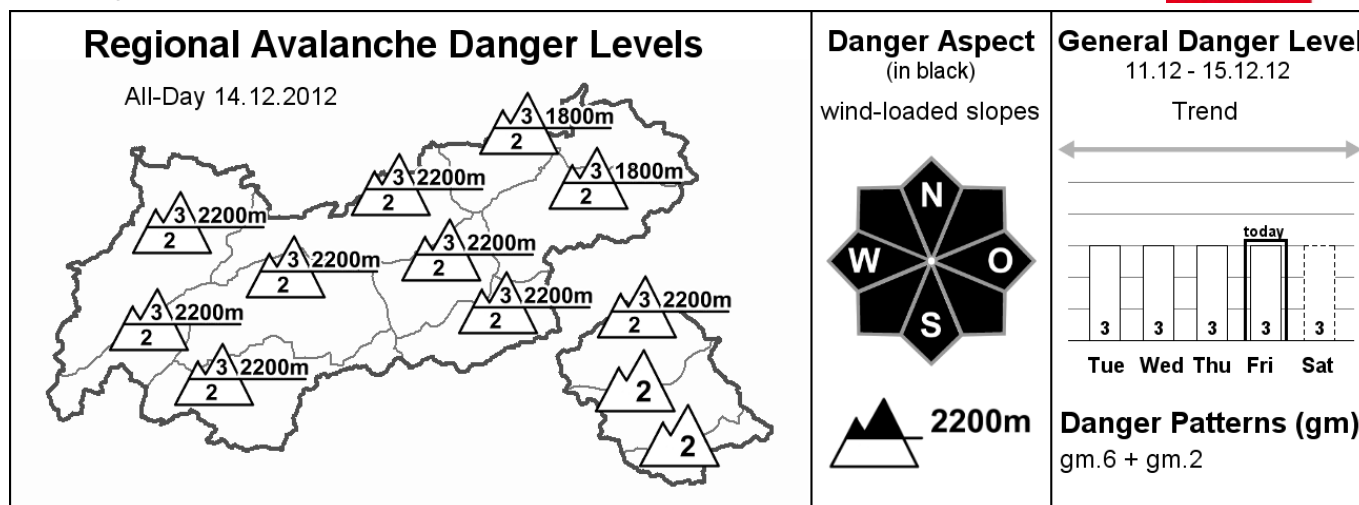


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 14.12.2012, at 07:30



Strong southwesterly winds creating new snow drift accumulations and considerable danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

As a result of the snow transport from strong winds, the avalanche danger in Tirol's backcountry touring regions remains considerable widespread. The major peril stems from freshly formed snow drift accumulations which will be created anew throughout the day today. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects, especially above approximately 2200 m. An avalanche can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single person. In isolated cases avalanches can fracture down into the old snow cover and consequently attain larger size. Below about 2000 m, the higher temperatures will possibly lead to more frequent naturally triggered full depth snowslides.

SNOW LAYERING

The new fallen and drifted snow from the most recent period of precipitation have in the interim settled and consolidated somewhat. However, caution is urged towards the increasingly strong southwesterly wind which is creating new drifted masses which, in turn, are inadequately bonded with the snow cover beneath them. This makes them relatively easy to trigger. The base of the old snowpack above approximately 2200 m consists mostly of faceted, loosely packed snow crystals. Above this fundament, hardened crusts are frequently embedded in the snow cover. All in all, the snowpack layering is weak.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a powerful low over the Atlantic Ocean will become the dominant influence in the weather of Central Europe for the next few days, bringing significantly milder air masses to the Alps. Mountain weather today: The northern Limestone Alps and northern Central Alps boast better visibility, the cloud cover will intermittently break up and permit a bit of sunshine. The strong to storm-strength foehn winds remain a disturbing factor, however. Towards the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps from the Ortler to the Dolomites and Carnic Alps, fog and light snowfall will frequently reign. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 5 and minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: between minus 9 and minus 5 degrees. In high alpine ridgeline areas and foehn-influenced zones, strong to stormy southwesterly to westerly high altitude winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Considerable avalanche danger: at low altitudes from wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides; in high alpine regions from dry slab avalanches.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe