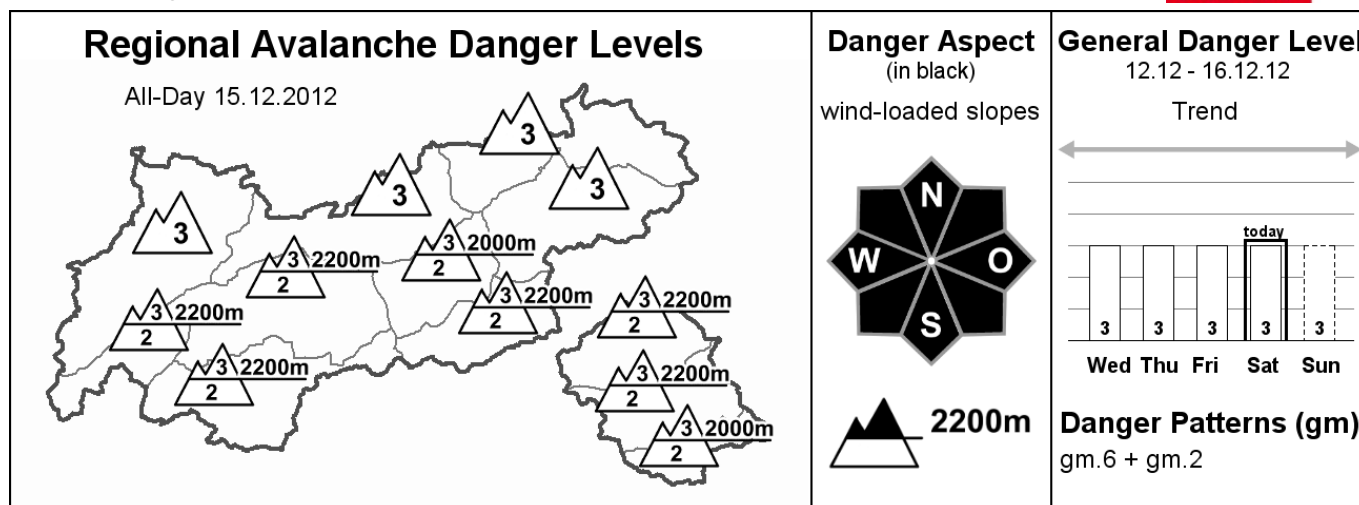


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 15.12.2012, at 07:30



Considerable danger: full depth snowslides at low altitudes, beware high alpine snowdrift!

AVALANCHE DANGER

Relatively unfavourable conditions prevail in Tirol's backcountry touring regions, with predominantly considerable avalanche danger. In high alpine regions, i.e. above approximately 2200 m, caution is urged most of all towards the ongoingly fresh-forming snow drift accumulations which can be triggered as avalanches even through minimum additional loading, namely, the weight of a single person. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects. Below about 2000 m, the snow cover is being weakened by the rise in temperatures and the rainfall. Thus, increasingly frequent naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

As temperatures rise, the new fallen and drifted snow masses continue to settle and consolidate a further notch. However in high alpine regions, strong to storm strength southerly to southwesterly winds have brought about new snow drift accumulations. These freshly drifted masses are inadequately bonded with the surface of the old snowpack, making them quite prone to triggering. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snow cover is will forfeit some of its firmness through the mild temperatures and anticipated rainfall; this will in turn raise the frequency of full depth snowslides.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A stormy southwesterly to westerly airstream is currently destabilizing the weather in the Alps. Once the foehn wind has come to an end, a front bringing precipitation will rapidly pass through. The snowfall level will be lower on the southern flank of the Main Alpine Ridge than on the northern flank. Mountain weather today: The strong to storm-strength southerly wind in the foehn-exposed regions of North Tirol will weaken over the course of the day. From the Arlberg and Ausserfern, skies will turn overcast and light to moderate snow showers will subsequently set in. In the Northern Alps, the snowfall level will be 1500 m; on the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps, generally between low lying areas and later, 1000 m. About 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated, amidst ongoing snow transport. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees. Strong to storm strength southerly to westerly high altitude winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will recede only gradually.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe