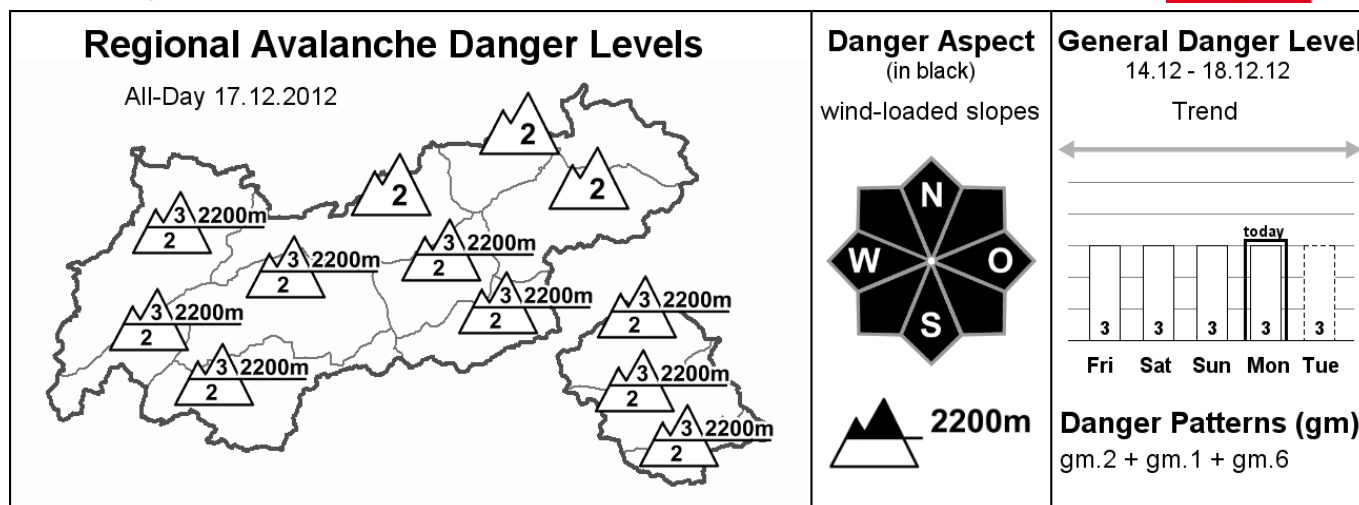


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 17.12.2012, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger above approximately 2200 m in general - treacherous conditions!

AVALANCHE DANGER

In northern regions, the danger is predominantly moderate, further to the south the peril is contingent on altitude and above approximately 2200 m it is considerable. The peril for backcountry skiing and freeriding tours stems from freshly formed and also from older snowdrift accumulations. The situation is least favourable in the southern part of the region Arlberg-Ausserfern, Silvretta-Samnaun, the Stubai and Ötztal, Tux and Zillertal Alps and in East Tirol above approximately 2200 m, where slab avalanches can be triggered from a weak layer near the ground even through minimum additional loading, especially on steep, west to north to east facing slopes. Such avalanches can attain medium size and be remotely triggered even in moderately steep terrain. In high alpine regions, i.e. above approximately 3000 m, the likelihood of older snow drift accumulations triggering tends to decrease. Caution is also urged towards fresh snow drift accumulations which are frequently found in very steep terrain near ridge lines and in drifted, very steep north to east to south facing gullies and bowls. And lastly, caution is required towards full depth snowslides on steep, grass covered slopes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover was able to settle and stabilize in the relatively high temperatures, at least at low and intermediate altitudes. However, the snowpack has also become thoroughly wet, which favours full depth snowslides releasing on steep, smooth slopes. The snow layering is least favourable in the above-mentioned regions above approximately 2200 m, where thin rain crusts, faceted snow crystals and depth hoar conglomerate in one layer: this could prove to be a bed surface for slab avalanches. Fresh snow drift masses above approximately 2300 m frequently require caution, since their trigger sensitivity tends to increase with ascending altitude.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: From the Arlberg over the Lechtal Alps to the Rofan and the Wilder Kaiser, frequent snow showers today, accompanied by strong westerly winds. By Tuesday morning 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow is expected, most of it around the Arlberg. Fewer snow showers are anticipated on the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Hohe Tauern. The Lienz Dolomites and Carnic Alps will remain dry. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Strong westerly winds in most regions; in the Dolomites and Carnic Alps there will be strong northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The danger spots: on west to north to east facing slopes above about 2200 m.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe