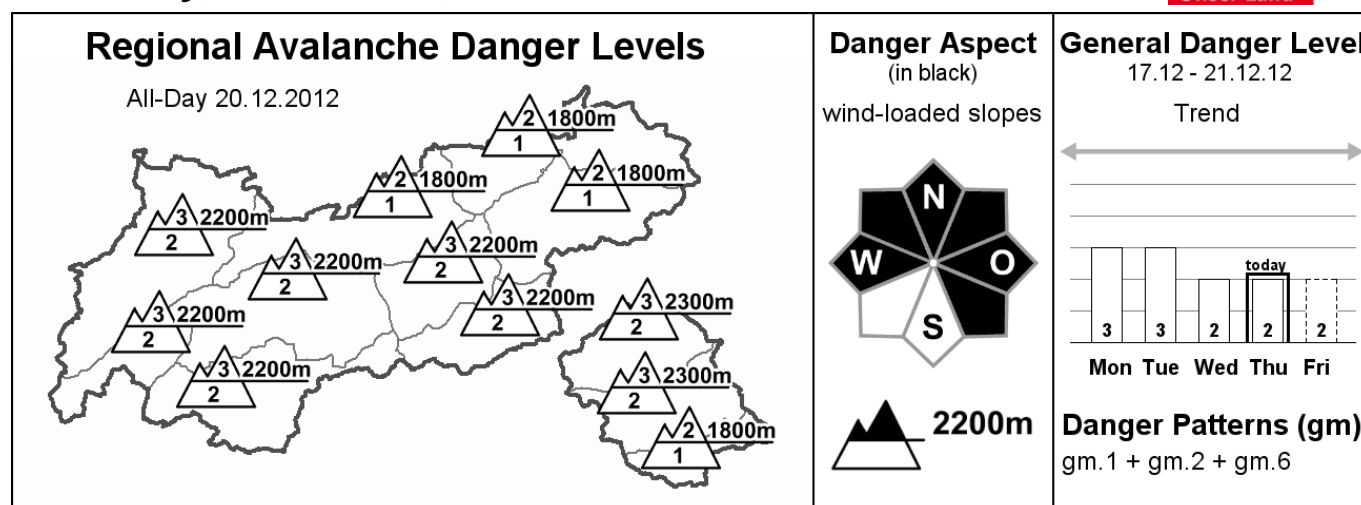


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 20.12.2012, at 07:30



Higher proneness to triggering especially above 2200 m on west to north to east facing slopes

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude and more favourable in northern than in southern regions. South of a line drawn from Ausserfern over the Northern and Kitzbühel Alps, the peril above approximately 2200 m continues to be considerable, below that altitude moderate, beneath the tree line low. The greatest hazards are currently on west to north to east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m, where slab avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack even by minimum additional loading. Settling 'whumpf' sounds, glide cracks forming and even remote triggerings are invariably a high alarm signal, all of which have frequently been observed. Elsewhere, caution is urged towards newly formed snow drift accumulations, especially above 2500 m and in areas adjacent to ridge lines. They are often blanketed over by new fallen, loosely packed snow, particularly where snowfall was heaviest, making them hard to recognize. In the western regions where snow is deepest, in addition, caution is also necessary towards full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes. Areas below glide cracks and other snow fissures should be avoided whenever possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The overriding factor is currently the very unfavourable snow layering above about 2200 m on west to north to east facing slopes in the more southerly regions of Tyrol. Adjacent to a rain crust which formed on 11 November, faceted snow crystals and depth hoar have also formed, making the snowpack in these areas easily triggered. Above approximately 2800 m, the trigger sensitivity tends to diminish somewhat. Freshly formed snow drift accumulations can be triggered with ease only above 2500 m, below that altitude they have generally bonded well with the old snow cover.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: An intermediate high has reached the Eastern Alps, providing generally sunny skies. However, the clouds of a warm front are rapidly approaching from the west. On Friday there will be snowfall and freezing rain. Following a short phase of tranquility, the next disturbance will arrive on Sunday. Mountain weather today: in early morning hours it will be very cold, the skies generally cloudless. Cloud will move in from the west, creating diffuse light conditions. As of midday, it will become overcast, the mountains will slowly be shrouded in fog and by evening on the Arlberg and in Ausserfern, snowfall will set in. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 degrees. Light to moderate high altitude winds from west to northwest.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the situation to begin with.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe