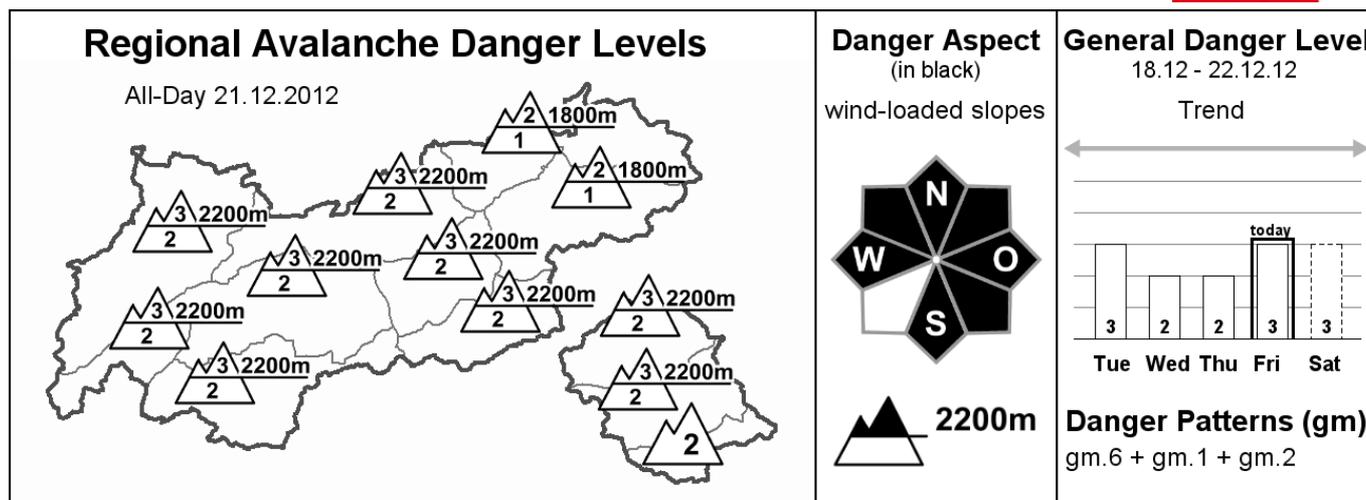


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 21.12.2012, at 07:30



Caution towards fresh snow drift and on west to north to east facing slopes above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has increased somewhat due to the stronger winds at high altitudes. The peril above approximately 2200 m is generally considerable, below that altitude moderate, beneath the tree line in the regions where the snow is shallower, low. Three facets of the danger require special caution. First, the snowdrift which has formed since yesterday and deposited atop loosely packed, cold, new fallen snow is prone to triggering. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger an avalanche in very steep terrain. Visibility permitting, the danger zones (which are frequently found behind crested rims on northeast to east to south facing slopes) can be easily recognized. With ascending altitude, these danger spots tend to increase in frequency and become easier to trigger. Second, in the regions south of a line from Ausserfern over the Northern Alps to the Kitzbühel Alps above approximately 2200 m on west to north to east facing slopes, slab avalanches which can attain medium size can be triggered in the old snow cover. We advise avoiding especially steep terrain. Beware remote triggerings! Above approximately 2800 m, the likelihood of the old snowpack triggering diminishes somewhat. And lastly, at lower altitudes in the regions which have the deepest snow, caution towards full depth snowslides on steep, grass covered slopes is urged.

SNOW LAYERING

Cold, loosely packed new fallen snow which was recently deposited on the snow cover, together with the latest round of fresh fallen snow (about 5 - 10 cm) is increasingly being transported at high altitudes. The borderline between these two layers of snow drift and cold new fallen snow can be triggered with ease. Inside the old snow cover, there are a rain crust and melt freeze crusts, together with faceted snow crystals and depth hoar which can be easily triggered, especially where the snow is shallow, located south of a line from Ausserfern over the Northern to the Kitzbühel Alps above approximately 2200 m on west to north to east facing slopes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: sustained snowfall will continue from the Karwendel and Rofan eastwards, with much impeded visibility to begin with in most regions. During the course of the day, weather conditions will improve in the inneralpine regions south of the Inn Valley, bringing sunshine as of midday. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds. Weather in general: a weather perturbation is embedded inside a northwesterly airstream which is moving slowly eastwards. On Saturday, an intermediate high will improve conditions temporarily, but towards evening a powerful warm front will reach western Austria.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the situation to begin with. On Saturday night, avalanche danger will increase.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe