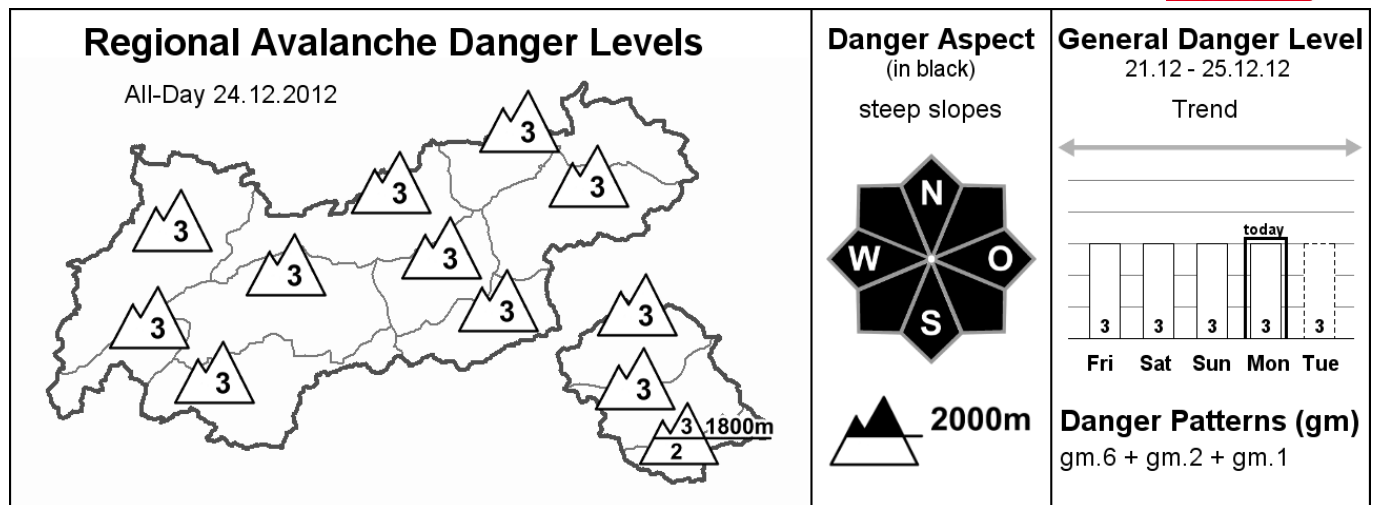


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 24.12.2012, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger far and wide

AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tirol's backcountry touring regions, predominantly unfavourable conditions prevail, accompanied by considerable avalanche danger. Above approximately 2000 m, freshly formed snow drift accumulations require special caution above all else. They are prone to triggering and can release even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects as well as near ridge lines in general. As a result of the wetness of the snowpack, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected below about 2400 m which in isolated cases can reach large size and endanger exposed transportation routes.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover at low and intermediate altitudes is thoroughly wet, by and large, as a result of the rainfall and the springlike temperatures. In high alpine regions, the most recent bout of snowfall has been massively transported by storm strength westerly to northwesterly winds. New, extremely trigger sensitive snow drift masses have been the result. In addition, the fundament of the snowpack above approximately 2200 m on shady slopes consists mainly of faceted, unbonded snow crystals. Thus, avalanches which are triggered can break through down to the lowermost layers and thereby attain larger size.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: Tirol lies in the path of a powerful westerly air current which will increasingly shift to southwesterly over the course of the day. The next weather perturbation is expected to move in on Wednesday. Mountain weather today: windy, very mild mountain weather. The zero degree level will reach 3300 m by midday! Sunshine will dominate, the cloudbanks passing through will be far above summit altitude. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: plus 2 degrees. Brisk westerly to southwesterly winds at high altitudes, reaching storm strength in gusts.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will slowly recede.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe