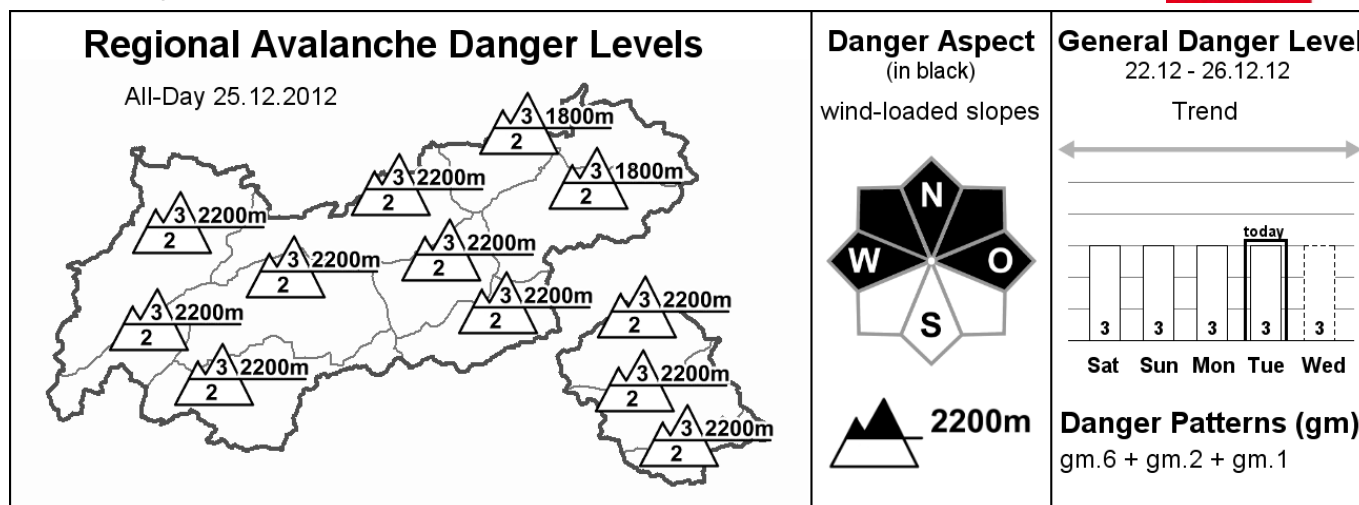


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 25.12.2012, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger in general above 2200 m

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is considerable by and large. Avalanche prone locations are to be found most frequently on wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m, mainly on west to north to southeast facing slopes. Freshly formed snow drift accumulations in particular can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single skier or freerider. Below about 2400 m, caution is urged towards naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides, which could even place exposed transportation routes at risk.

SNOW LAYERING

Due to the extraordinarily mild temperatures, the snow cover at low and intermediate altitudes is for the most part thoroughly wet, which has led to a loss of firmness. In high alpine regions, brisk to storm force westerly to southwesterly winds have given rise to wide ranging snow drift accumulations. The drifted masses tend to be brittle, making them prone to triggering. The weak layers at the base of the snowpack on high alpine, shady slopes continue to require caution.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low pressure complex over the north Atlantic is still the dominating weather determinant. It will bring very mild air masses to the Alps from the southwest today, on the north flanks of which foehn winds will also be palpable. On Boxing Day, a weather disturbance will traverse the land. Mountain weather today: High altitude cloud far above summit level may weaken the sunshine and make the skies milky, but on the northern flank of the Alps visibility will nonetheless remain good. The negative factors for skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain are the strong foehn wind and unusually mild temperatures. On the southern flank of the Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge, low lying cloud and impaired visibility; in East Tyrol bright intervals will appear. Temperature at 2000 m: between plus 3 and plus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: plus 1 degree. Strong southwesterly winds, in foehn-exposed areas and at high alpine ridge lines the winds will reach storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The danger of full depth snowslides will slowly recede.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe