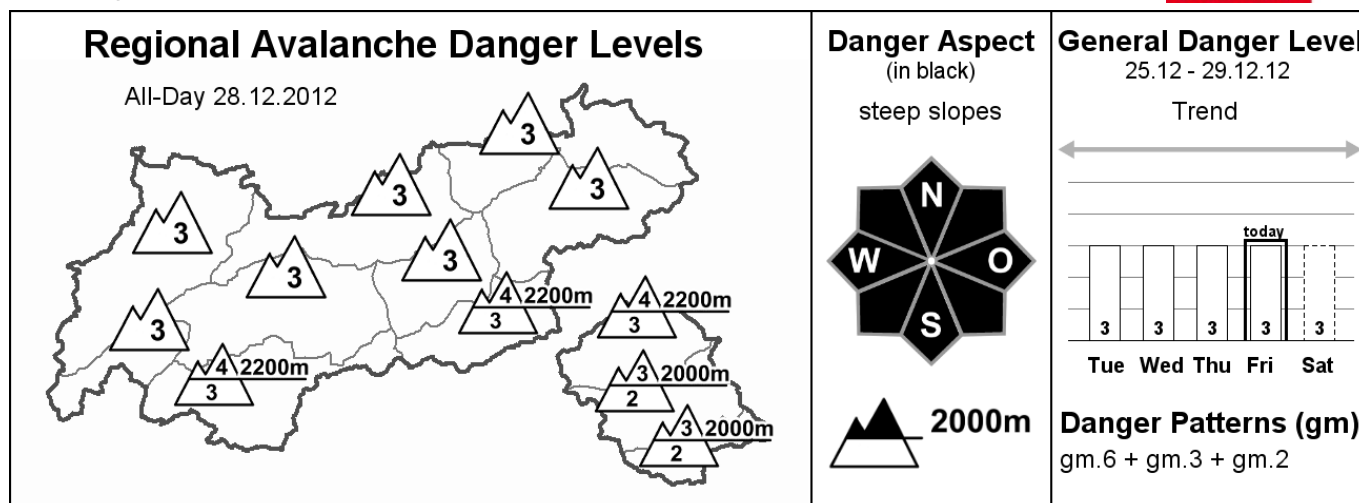


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 28.12.2012, at 07:30



Unfavourable touring conditions, considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

Predominantly unfavourable conditions prevail in Tirol's backcountry touring regions, the danger level far and wide is considerable. The major peril currently stems from freshly formed snow drift accumulations which are generally brittle and can be triggered as avalanches with relative ease. Even minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider, is sufficient to release one. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, mainly above approximately 2200 m. Up to intermediate altitude the snow cover is stabilizing somewhat due to the dropping temperatures. However, naturally triggered full depth snowslides can still be expected in isolated cases.

SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday afternoon in North Tirol and along the East Tirolean Tauern Ridge, there has been 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow, from place to place even more. The snowfall level was between 1500 and 1800 m; it was accompanied by storm strength westerly winds which led to massive transport and the formation of fresh snow drift accumulations. The uppermost surface of the snow cover varies greatly, even over small areas of terrain, due to the ongoing heavy impact of wind; windblown or wind-compacted surfaces frequently lie immediately adjacent to deep masses of drifted snow. In addition, caution is required towards the snowpack fundament in high alpine regions on shady slopes which at its base consists of faceted, loosely packed snow crystals. Up to intermediate altitudes there are frequently melt freeze crusts embedded inside the snowpack. As a result of the mild temperatures and repeated rainfall, it is often thoroughly wet.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The disturbance will pass through today and provide us with an intermediate high pressure zone tomorrow, Saturday. However the westerly airstream will keep conditions variable even thereafter. Until after New Year's Day it will remain relatively mild. Mountain weather today: foggy until this afternoon, amidst strong winds and snowfall. All in all, 5 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated, most of which will fall in the eastern mountain ranges. This afternoon the snow showers will move further eastwards, windows of sunshine are possible in western regions. South of the Alps more sunshine is expected, especially between the Ortler and the Dolomites. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 to minus 9 degrees. Stormy northwesterly winds to begin with, slackening off to moderate this afternoon.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Treacherous avalanche situation, considerable avalanche danger far and wide

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe