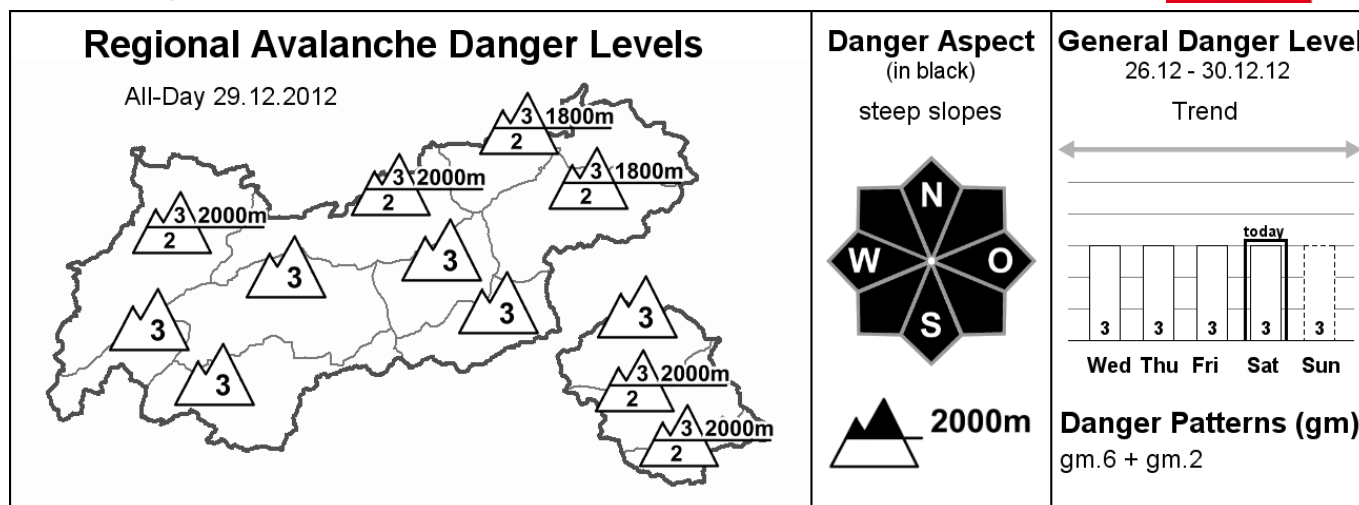


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 29.12.2012, at 07:30



Treacherous avalanche situation: considerable danger far and wide

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is delicate and treacherous amidst danger levels which are predominantly considerable. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, mainly above approximately 2000 m. Fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single person. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain require experience in assessing the avalanche hazards. Below about 2200 m the snow cover has stabilized somewhat. As temperatures rise today, more frequent naturally triggered full depth snowslides can be expected.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been an additional 10 to 20 cm of snowfall, most of which fell along the Zillertal Main Ridge and the East Tirolean Tauern Ridge. Further to the west and north, as well as in the south of East Tirol, there was generally 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow. The northwesterly wind was stormy during the morning in particular, which led to wide ranging freshly formed snow drift masses. The fresh snow drift is poorly bonded with the loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it, making it relatively easy for avalanches to release. In addition, the relatively weak fundament on shady, high alpine slopes requires special caution. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack will lose some of its firmness during the day today as temperatures rise.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: The Alps will remain in the grips of a southwesterly to westerly high altitude airstream until after New Year's. Today this front will bring dry and mild air masses to Tirol. Tomorrow, Sunday, a weak disturbance will brush the northern regions. Over New Year's, mild, foehn wind influenced air masses will again predominate. Mountain weather today: The recent snowfall can be enjoyed in wonderful weather, with lots of sunshine to savour and only a few clouds high above summit level. Temperatures will rise in northern regions in particular. Not much wind. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 to minus 2 degrees. Light to moderate westerly to southwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will slowly recede

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe