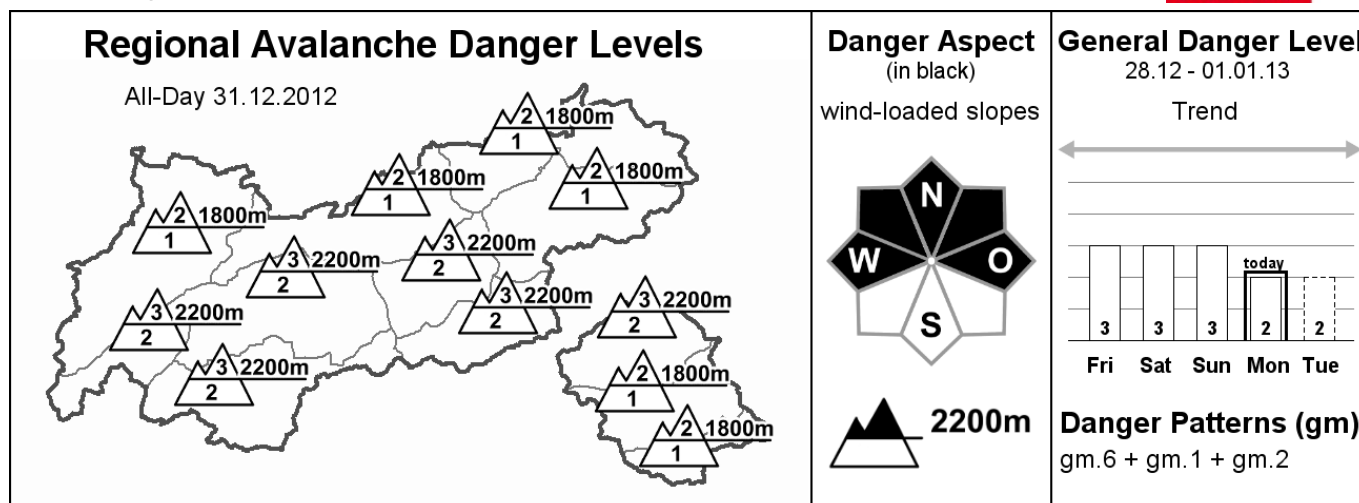


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 31.12.2012, at 07:30



Beware very steep, shady slopes above 2200 m and ridgeline terrain

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. The situation is least favourable in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, in the northern Ötztal and Stubai Alps and in the Tux Alps, where above approximately 2200 m the danger level continues to be considerable. Avalanches, particularly on west to north to east facing steep slopes, and more frequently on shallow snow spots, can be triggered and reach medium size. This was confirmed by impressive avalanches in precisely these areas over the last few days. In the remaining regions, generally moderate danger prevails, below the tree line the danger throughout Tyrol is low. Besides the above-mentioned danger zones are also others, especially in wind-exposed areas adjacent to ridge lines above the tree line, where as a result of the intensifying winds today new snow drift accumulations are expected to form, particularly on northwest to north to east facing slopes. On steep, grassy slopes in the western regions where the snow is deepest, isolated full depth snowslides are still possible.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover in the regions south of a line drawn from Ausserfern over the Northern Alps and the Kitzbühel Alps is unfavourable on west to north to east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Near the ground is a thin, area-wide layer of depth hoar with hardened crusts lodged near it, atop of which slab avalanches could be triggered. This applies especially to spots where the snow is shallow. Elsewhere the fresh snow drift above the tree line is unstable at the point of contact to the cold, loosely packed new fallen snow beneath it. The proneness to triggering increases with ascending altitude.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: very good mountain weather conditions, sunshine dominating amidst just a few high altitude clouds which will not influence the light overly. In addition, temperatures will rise over the course of the day, the zero-degree level reaching 2400 m. Temperature at 2000 m, plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m, minus 3 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds, brisker in the typical foehn lanes. Weather in general: A powerful low pressure system hovers over Central Europe, a high pressure system over Southern Europe. Tyrol is wedged between the two fronts in a dry and relatively mild westerly to southwesterly air current.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Caution urged towards freshly drifted snow masses above the tree line

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe