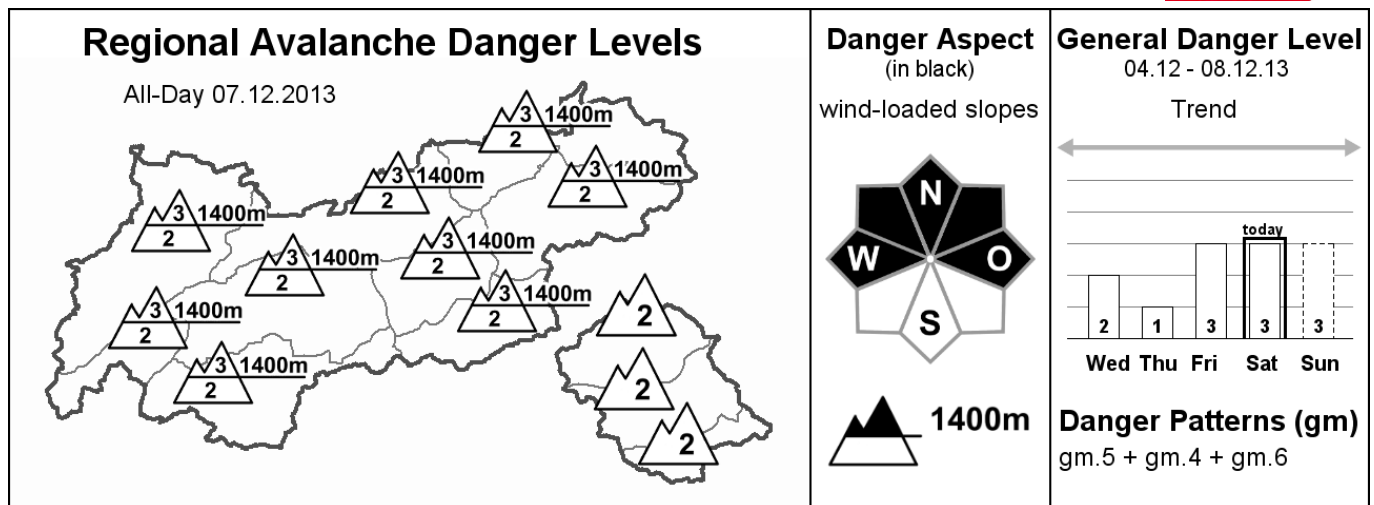


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 07.12.2013, at 07:30



Beware fresh snowdrift masses!

AVALANCHE DANGER

As a result of the snowfall and strong to stormy winds, the avalanche danger has increased. In North Tirol above approximately 1400 m, considerable danger prevails, below that altitude the danger level is moderate. In East Tirol the danger is moderate widespread. Caution is urged towards the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in very steep terrain, occurring especially frequently on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes and in ridgeline areas in all aspects. Even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger these drifted masses. Since in the Arlberg-Ausserfern and Kitzbühel Alps regions got the most snow (20 cm) the drifts are deeper there. Experience in avalanche danger evaluation makes recognizing these zones easy. In addition, the old snowpack in very steep, shady terrain between 2000m and 2500m can be released by large additional loading in particular.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in North Tirol there has been up to 20 cm of snowfall in the Arlberg-Ausserfern and Kitzbühel Alps regions, elsewhere generally 5-10 cm. East Tirol got only a bit of snowfall in the northern regions. The fresh fallen snow was accompanied by strong to stormy winds which are still blowing in many places, thus forming widespread and extensive snowdrift accumulations, most easily triggered on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes where the old snowpack surface was uninfluenced by winds before the snowfall. The old snowpack surface there consists of faceted, unbonded crystals; in some shady terrain, surface hoar has formed and persisted. On very steep, shady slopes between 2000 and 2500 m there is furthermore in some regions a thin rain crust embedded in the snow cover surrounded by faceted crystals. Surface hoar and these faceted crystals could serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: Stormy northwesterly winds continue in the mountains, accompanied by light snow showers in the barrier regions east of the Karwendel and in the Kitzbühel, Zillertal Alps and the Tauern. Bright intervals in inneralpine regions and on the Main Alpine Ridge west of the Brenner. In the Dolomites and Carnic Alps, clear and sunny skies, but with stormy northerly winds at high altitudes. Temperature at 2000 m: -8 degrees; at 3000 m: -13 degrees. Strong to stormy northwesterly winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in steep terrain should be consequently avoided.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe