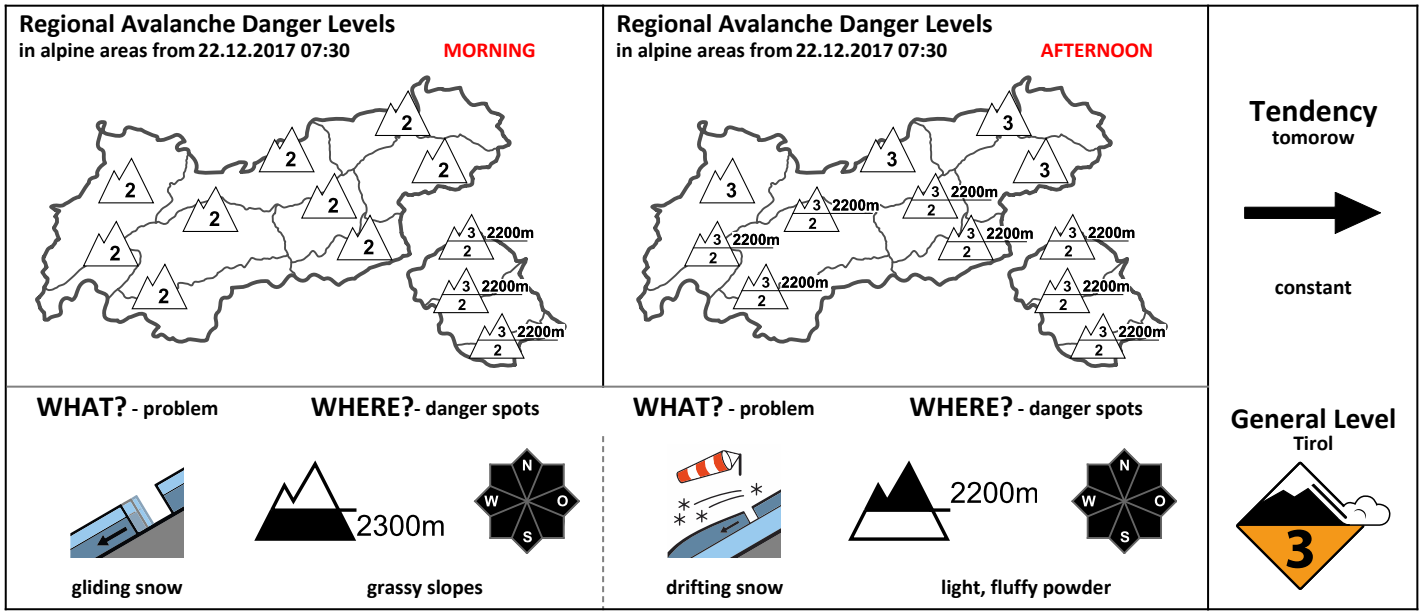
Avalanche Bulletin
of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol
Friday, 22.12.2017, at 07:30 Uhr



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): dp.3 - rain dp.2 - gliding snow dp.6 - loose snow and wind

Rising avalanche danger during the day

AVALANCHE DANGER

This morning in North Tirol, moderate danger prevails in general. As a result of the expected warm front, the danger level will rise to considerable above 2200 m. In East Tirol the danger level is considerable above 2200 m right from the start; below that altitude, moderate. Three problems threaten: gliding snow, snowdrifts, old snow. The gliding snow problem on steep, grassy slopes is lessened by warmth and rain. The snowdrift problem exists above 2200 m, caution urged towards fresh, small drifts: they are prone to triggering. In East Tirol the old snow problem is most striking: the snowpack at 2300-2800 m can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Sunny terrain there is more endangered than shady terrain!

SNOW LAYERING

Rain and warmth are weakening the snowpack at low and intermediate altitdues. Light, fluffy powder from 19-20 December has been blanketed by fresher snowfall and is now a weak layer. Caution urged wherever snowdrifts blanket this layer. In East Tirol, a weak, faceted layer inside the old snow on sunny slopes lurks beneath the melt-freeze crust. Numerous avalanches which triggered during the last few days are proof of how trigger-sensitive it is. Even a remote triggering occured in sunny terrain at 2700 m. In North Tirol there is a comparable weak layer in sunny terrain above 2700 m. Most often, these masses are covered by hardened and deep drifts and can be triggered only by large additional loading.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Heavy cloud. Initially, showers will be local, mostly in northern and eastern regions. Later on from the Main Ridge northwards, some snowfall, rainfall at low altitudes. Dry and dispersed clouds in the Southern Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: -2 degrees; at 3000 m: -7 degrees. Moderate to strong NW winds.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change to start with.

Patrick Nairz **Translated by Jeffrey McCabe**