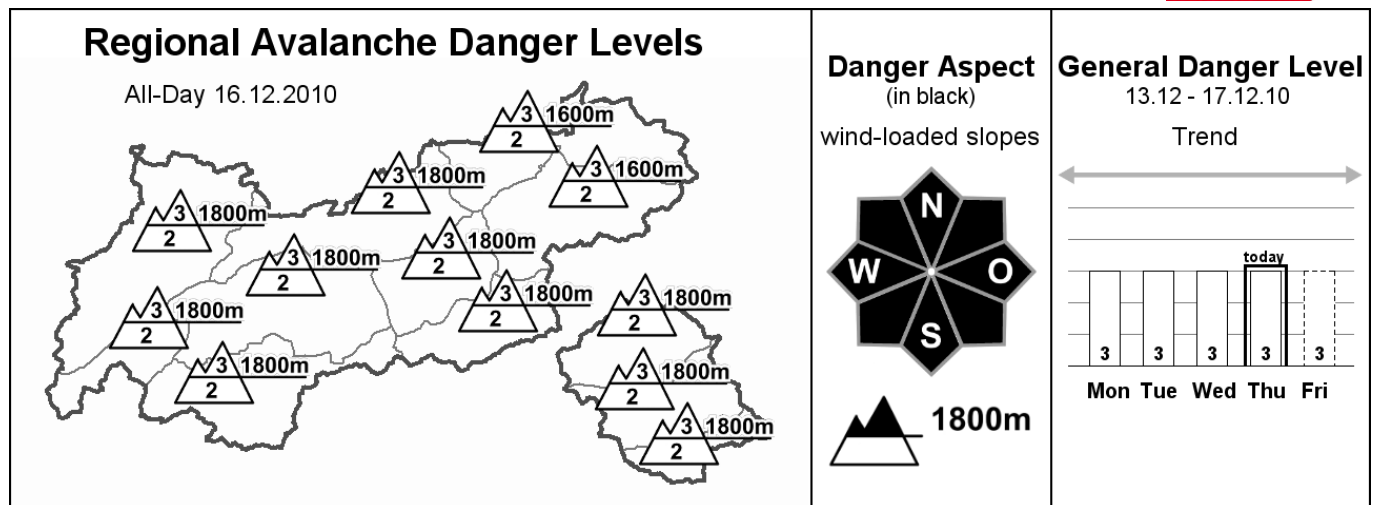


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 16.12.2010, at 07:30



**Above about 1800 m, danger is considerable - Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

There is currently little change in the avalanche situation. It remains contingent on altitude, with the peril considerable above the treeline, moderate below it, at low altitudes often low. The major hazard stems from fresh snowdrift accumulations, most frequently found on east to south to west facing slopes, due to the northerly air current. Most avalanche prone locations thus occur in areas adjacent to ridge lines, in very steep terrain or in gullies and bowls. Outside of fresh snowdrift masses, caution is also urged towards older snowdrift accumulations which have now been covered over by the snowfall of the last few days, making them hard to recognize. Between 1800 and 2200 m in very steep terrain, particularly in southwestern to northern to southeastern exposition, they can be triggered by minimum additional loading, although the unleashed snow masses generally remain small. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, in very steep, shady terrain, especially in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, slab avalanches can be triggered from a layer of depth hoar near the ground. Despite the low temperatures, isolated full depth snowslides are also possible in the regions with the most snow.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack above the treeline is highly varied and irregular. It is characterized by embedded rain crusts: at low altitudes, a thick layer near the ground; at intermediate altitudes on shady slopes, often two crusts; at high altitudes, up to three crusts in many areas. These crusts are interspersed with faceted snow crystals, with depth hoar in areas with little snow, which are potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches. In isolated cases, a thin layer with surface hoar or graupel is embedded inside the snowpack. Fresh snowdrift can be unleashed at the point where it meets the cold, loose new fallen snow beneath it.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather: a weak intermediate high will bring drier air, at least to high altitudes today. But the interim will be a short one, since tonight another northerly front is expected to arrive, again bringing moist and initially very cold air masses to Tyrol. Mountain weather today: particularly the Northern Alps are shrouded in fog, from which a few snow flurries are possible this morning, making visibility correspondingly poor. The higher peaks on the Main Alpine Ridge will probably soon see a bit of sunshine, on the southern flank of the Alps it will be brilliantly sunny. Temperatures are expected to rise slightly over the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 14 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 degrees. Light northwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As westerly winds come up, new, trigger-sensitive snowdrift masses will be created.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe