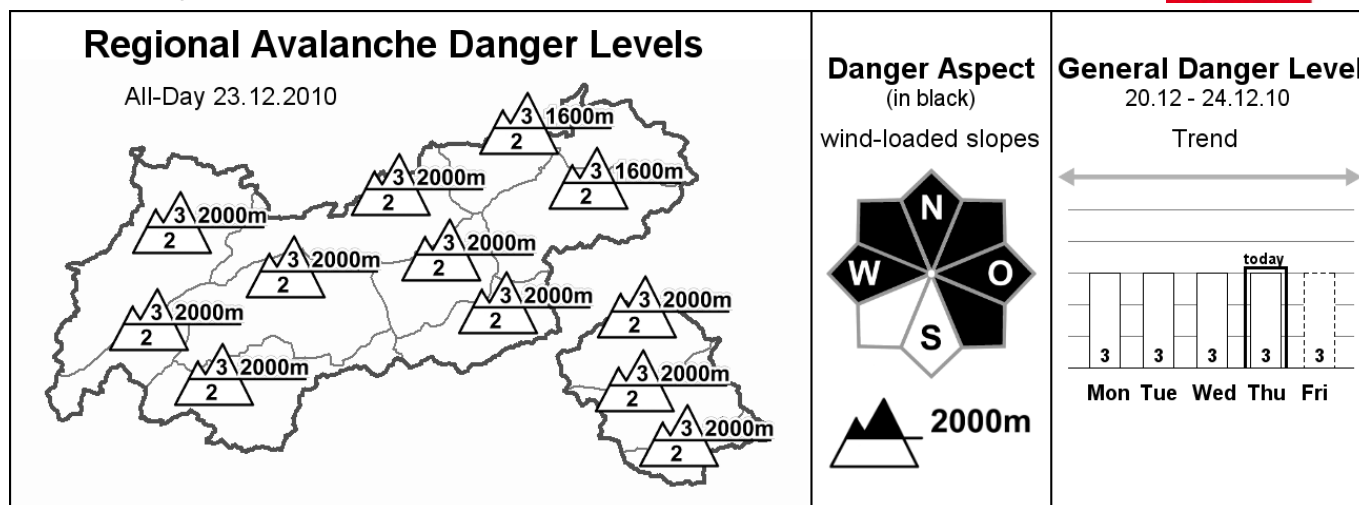


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 23.12.2010, at 07:30



### Considerable danger of slab avalanches above treeline - Full depth snowslides at low altitudes

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The backcountry touring conditions in Tyrol are rather unfavourable, the danger level above approximately 2000 m is considerable widespread. The major peril stems from fresh and old snowdrift accumulations. Freshly formed snowdrift masses in particular can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes and, in general, in transition areas from shallow to deep snow. At low and intermediate altitudes, naturally triggered full depth snowslides will be increasingly frequent, especially on very steep, smooth, grassy slopes.

#### SNOW LAYERING

At low and intermediate altitudes, foehn winds are bearing down hard on the snowpack: snow depths are being drastically reduced, the snowpack is becoming thoroughly wet. All in all, the snowpack has settled well, but its firmness will now decrease in many places. Also in high alpine regions, a strong to stormy southerly wind has done its job, the snowpack is now irregular: both snowdepths and snow quality are highly varied even within small surface areas. Right next to deeply drifted gullies and bowls, utterly windblown knolls and broad ridges are evident. Most adverse is the snow layering at intermediate altitudes, i.e. 1800 to 2300 m, where beneath a wind crust there is generally a trigger sensitive layer of faceted, loose snow crystals. Moreover, additional melt-freeze crusts are interspersed with other loosely packed layers inside the snowpack.

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

Weather: a powerful low is rotating over southern France; Tyrol at its vanguard is caught in a mild southwesterly current. This low is moving towards northern Italy, bringing moist and subsequently, ever colder air. Mountain weather today: the Northern Alps, apart from the summits, are generally cloudless, and it will be very windy in places. On the Main Alpine Ridge, barrier clouds press against the mountain flanks from the south, accompanied by a few showers, above approximately 2000 m as snowfall. The Southern Alps are shrouded in dense cloud, snowfall is anticipated widespread, below about 1500 m as rainfall. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Strong to storm velocity southerly winds at high altitudes, slackening off towards evening.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst precipitation, rising avalanche danger

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe