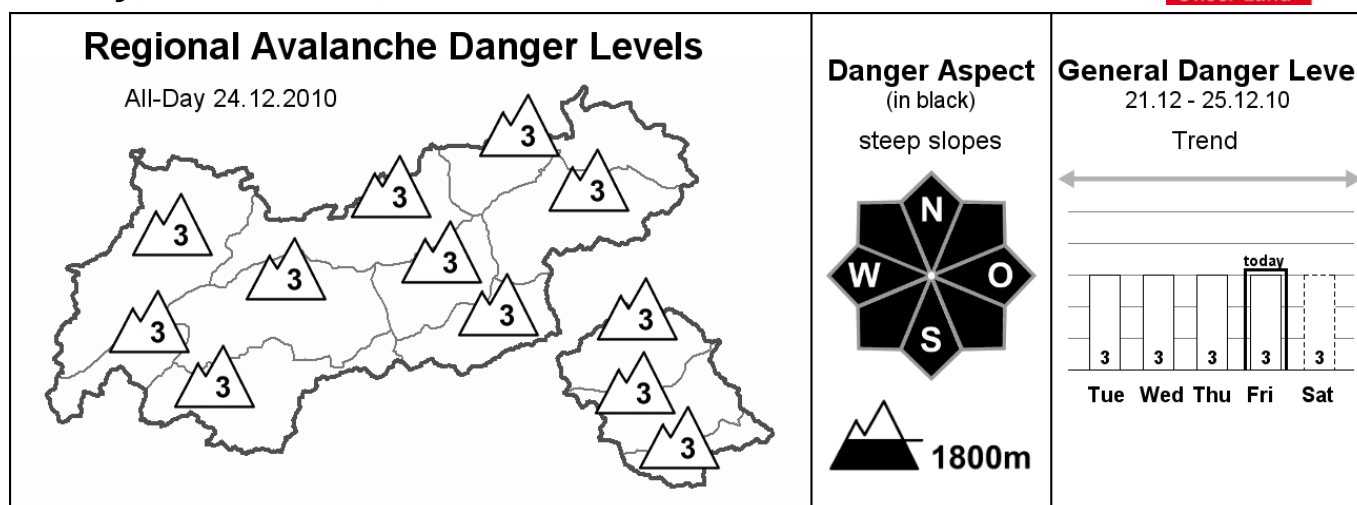


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 24.12.2010, at 07:30



### Full depth snowslides at low altitudes, considerable slab avalanche danger in high alpine regions

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is considerable far and wide. At low and intermediate altitudes, the increasingly wet snowpack requires great caution. Below about 1800 m, particularly on steep, smooth, grass-covered slopes, full depth snowslides are likely which can, in isolated cases, endanger transportation routes. In addition, naturally triggered wet sluffs and full depth snowslides are possible. Special caution is urged towards this hazard in East Tyrol, where it will rain all day long today. In high alpine regions, up to 20 cm of snowfall is anticipated today, which will blanket over both older and fresh snowdrift accumulations, making an evaluation of the danger far more difficult. Slab avalanches can often be triggered by minimum additional loading, i.e. even the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider.

#### SNOW LAYERING

At low and intermediate altitudes, the mild temperatures and rainfall up to about 1500 - 2000 m have made the snowpack thoroughly wet, which has in turn led to a great loss in its firmness. Yesterday in high alpine regions there were further snowdrift re-deposits. Today's snowfall will cover over both older and fresh snowdrift accumulations with new fallen snow. Between 1800 and 2300 m more than anywhere else, several loosely packed, unbonded layers are embedded inside the snowpack which are potential bed surfaces for avalanches

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

Weather: a low over northern Italy is scooping moist, mild air masses towards Tyrol today. At the same time from the north, arctic air masses are drifting in our direction. Tomorrow, the low will move towards eastern Europe, northern barrier effect weather will set in. As of Sunday, a weak high will dominate, amidst low temperatures. Mountain weather today: wet and gloomy, the wind has tapered off. Between the Northern Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge, temperatures will fall over the course of the day. In the Southern Alps, temperatures are expected to decrease tonight; this morning, precipitation will stop for a brief spell. By Saturday morning, about 20 cm of new fallen snow is expected on the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Dolomites; 10 to 20 cm in the remaining regions. Temperature at 2000 m: dropping from plus 1 down to minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: temperatures will drop to minus 7 degrees. Light to moderate southerly winds at high altitudes. This afternoon, winds will shift gradually to westerly, then to northerly and slightly increase in velocity.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Through the drop in temperatures, the danger of full depth snowslides will recede. In those high alpine regions with lots of new fallen snow, slight increase in slab avalanche danger.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe