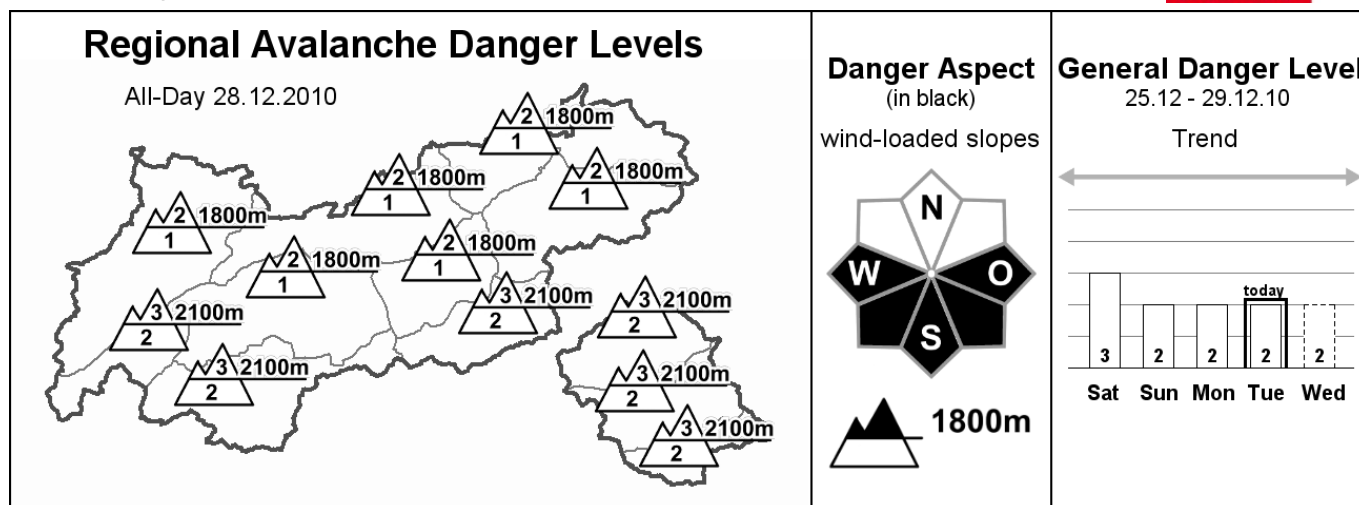


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 28.12.2010, at 07:30



**Fresh snowdrift accumulations are highly trigger sensitive in places, but usually easily recognized**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is currently subject to the frequency, the spread and the depth of freshly formed snowdrift accumulations and contingent on altitude as well. Along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Silvretta to the Zillertal Alps and in East Tyrol, considerable danger prevails above approximately 2100 m, moderate danger below that altitude, low danger at low altitudes. In the remaining regions, the danger above approximately 1800 m is moderate, below that altitude it is low. Caution throughout Tyrol is urged especially towards steep, recently drifted slopes where slab avalanches can be easily triggered even by minimum additional loading. Steep areas adjacent to ridge lines in eastern to southern to western expositions and gullies and bowls in general are particularly perilous. Avalanches which fracture inside the old snowpack are most likely in transition areas from shallow to deep snow between 2000 and 2300 m, as well as above 3000 m on very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes, where, however, large additional loading is required. Full depth snowslides on steep, grass covered slopes are now expected more frequently again, due to the progressive moistening of the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes.

### SNOW LAYERING

The decisive factor currently is the cold, loosely packed new fallen snow which, in some places, particularly at high altitudes, is being transported. The bonding of the snowdrift to this cold, fresh snow, which in some cases fell as very light new snow, is poor in general. Thus, avalanches can be easily triggered in such areas. Where there is no wind, on the other hand, loosely packed powder snow is often evident which, at least up to 2000 m, lies atop a hard, rainfall-influenced old snowpack. At higher altitudes, the old snowpack in all expositions has been intensely influenced by the wind and is usually hard. Between about 2000 and 2300 m, there are older, thin rain crusts embedded inside the snowpack which could serve as bed surfaces for avalanches; in high alpine regions the fundament consists of depth hoar.

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

General weather: a weak wedge-formed high over western Europe is bringing slightly warmer air masses to the Alps in a persistent northwesterly current. This warm front will also bring 5 to 15 cm of snowfall to North Tyrol on Tuesday night. Mountain weather today: diffuse visibility on the northern flank of the Alps, due to cloudbanks at intermediate altitudes, accompanied by light snow flurries. This afternoon, it will become more overcast, with fog shrouding the peaks at high altitudes, amidst moderate snowfall during the night tonight. In the Southern Alps, sunshine, although later in the day clouds will accumulate. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds, in areas near ridge lines the winds will be quite brisk.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As temperatures rise, greater caution urged towards the perils of freshly formed snowdrift masses.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe