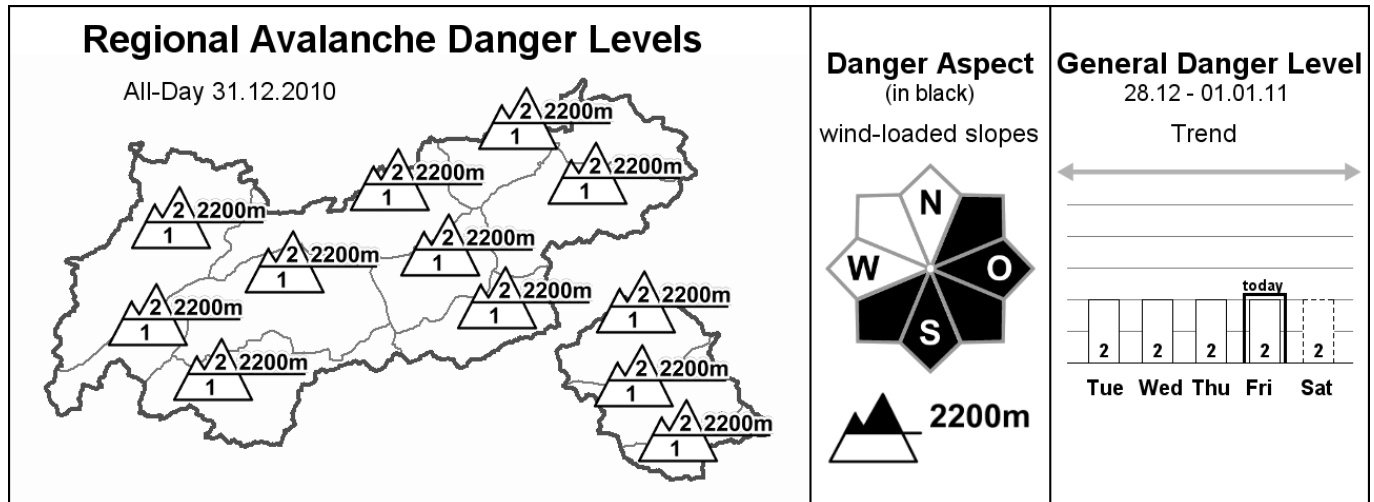


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 31.12.2010, at 07:30



### Favourable conditions widespread

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

Generally favourable conditions prevail far and wide. Below about 2200 m, the avalanche danger is low, above that altitude it is moderate. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines and in very steep gullies and bowls, usually in the form of recently formed snowdrift accumulations above the treeline. These snowdrifts are small surfaced, in general, and easier to trigger with ascending altitude. Their spread and depth also increase with ascending altitude. Experienced backcountry skiers and freeriders can easily recognize and, thus, circumvent them. The old snowpack can be triggered only in isolated cases, ordinarily only through large additional loading, most easily around 2200 m and above approximately 3000 m on very steep, shady slopes where the snow is shallow. At low and intermediate altitudes, isolated full depth snowslides are possible on steep, grassy slopes.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has few inner tensions. Potential bed surfaces for slab avalanches are to be found just beneath the fresh snowdrift masses: a layer of still loosely packed snow or very light new fallen snow. Due to the rise in temperatures of recent days, the snowdrift and this loosely packed snow have consolidated well, making avalanche triggering less likely. Weak layers inside the old snowpack are generally small sized, frequently found on wind exposed slopes around 2200 m, where there are thin, faceted layers encircling rain crusts embedded in the snowpack which could be triggered in isolated cases. On shady slopes in high alpine regions, a layer of depth hoar still lurks near the ground.

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

General weather: as the year draws to a close, a high pressure front will make itself felt. On Sunday, a flat cold front will reach the northern flank of the Alps. Mountain weather today: from the Wilder Kaiser eastwards, thin fogbanks still impede visibility, but will disperse by midday in all likelihood. Subsequently, sunshine is forecast throughout the mountains in Tyrol, with rather mild temperatures and light winds. In other words, superb weather conditions for backcountry skiing and freeriding tours. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Generally light northwesterly winds.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Due to brisk winds starting tomorrow, new snowdrift accumulations will form at high altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe