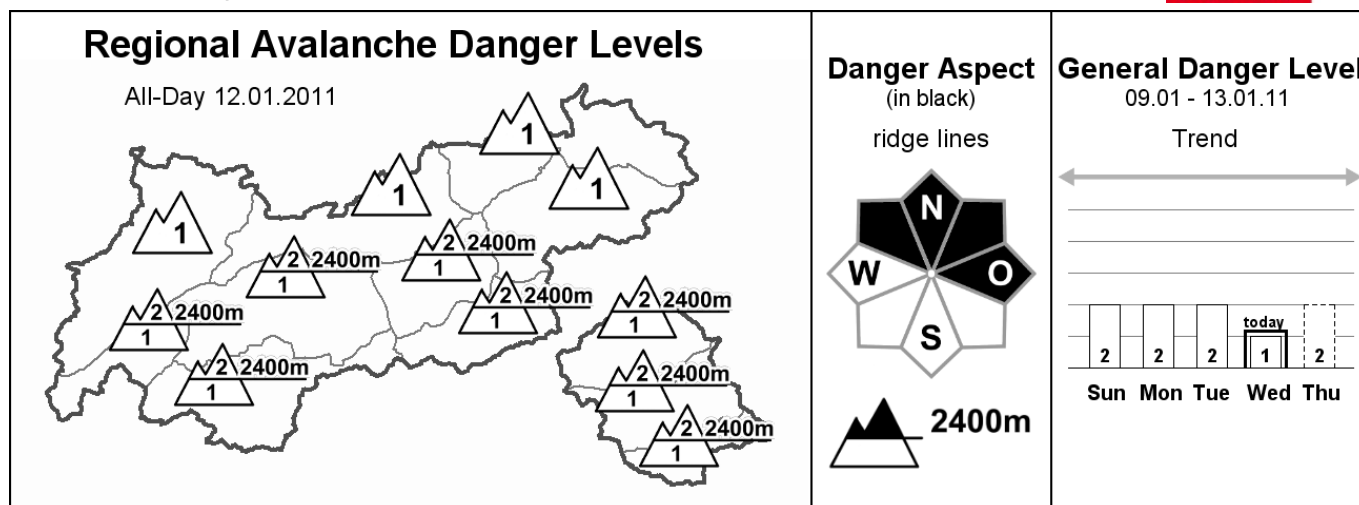


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 12.01.2011, at 07:30



**Moist sluffs at low and intermediate altitudes, small snowdrift masses at high altitudes**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Quite safe conditions currently prevail: the avalanche danger level in northern regions, i.e. from the Arlberg over the Northern Alps to the Kitzbühel Alps, is generally low. Further to the south, the danger depends on the altitude. Above approximately 2400 m, it is moderate; below that altitude it is low. Through the effects of the daytime warming cycle, the snowpack will become thoroughly wet, giving rise to isolated moist sluffs at low and intermediate altitudes, mainly on steep, grass covered slopes. At higher altitudes, most frequently above approximately 2400 m, the main danger stems from freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations, mainly on very steep, northwest to north to east facing slopes near ridge lines, which can sometimes be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In high alpine regions, the snowpack on extremely steep, shady slopes with shallow snow, particularly in transition areas from shallow to deep snow, can be triggered by large additional loading.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths are far below average for this juncture in the season, except for in southern East Tyrol. The snow melting continues apace at low altitudes. The snowpack below about 2000 m will become increasingly moist over the course of the day. A potential bed surface for slab avalanches can currently be found in the form of the old snowpack which until the middle of last week was exposed to very low temperatures for a long period. It consisted generally of faceted crystals at the time. The small sized snowdrift masses have bonded well with this surface in many areas, but not as well at high altitudes. In high alpine regions on shady slopes, moreover, the fundament consists of depth hoar from early winter.

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

General weather: over the coming few days, mild and intermittently moist air masses will flow towards Tyrol from the northwest and the west. Mountain weather today: clouds will often impair visibility in the mountains of North Tyrol, but not bring any significant precipitation. The snowfall level will be about 1300 m this morning. South of the Main Alpine Ridge, sunny to begin with; this afternoon, clouds will move in. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Moderate to strong westerly to northwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The rain will bring about frequent, usually small sized moist sluffs at low and intermediate altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe