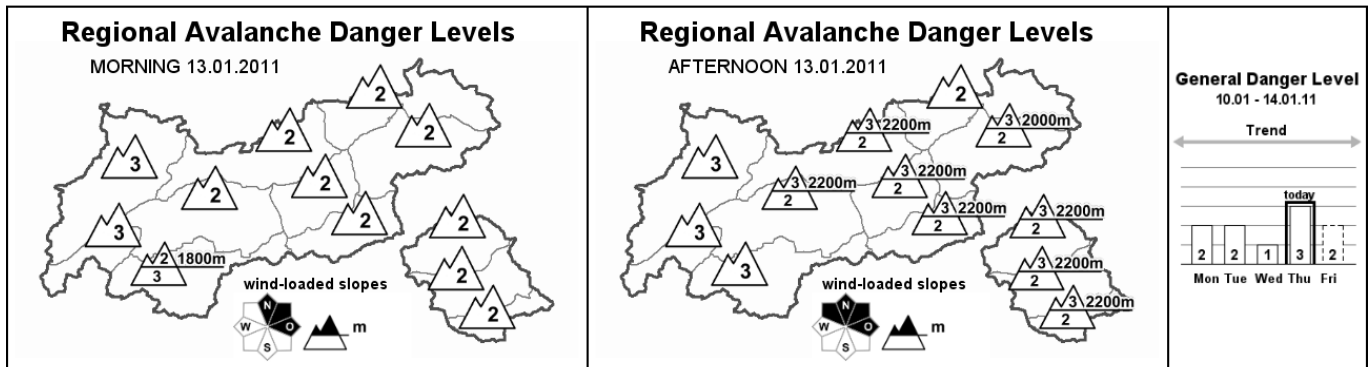


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 13.01.2011, at 07:30



## Wet snowslides in rainfall areas, caution towards fresh snowdrift higher up

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level has risen: in the western regions of North Tyrol where there has been heavy precipitation, it is generally considerable. In other areas with heavy rainfall where there is lots of snow, i.e. below about 1800 m, the danger level is also considerable. Above that altitude the danger level is moderate this morning; however, above approximately 2200 m it is expected to rise to considerable over the course of the day. In general, areas with heavy rainfall are endangered by wet snowslides or small wet snow avalanches. Full depth snowslides can occur most frequently on steep, grass covered slopes, but wet, loosely packed snow avalanches can also be triggered in extremely steep terrain. Above 2000 m, and then increasingly with ascending altitude, caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. They occur most often in the western and northern regions of North Tyrol where the drifts are deeper than elsewhere and where there is the most fresh fallen snow. Further, avalanches can often be triggered on very steep, northwest to north to east facing slopes by minimum additional loading. The areas adjacent to ridge lines are the most critical.

### SNOW LAYERING

The rain up to about 1800 m has deteriorated the already below average snow depths still further. The snowpack is becoming wetter and wetter, losing much of its firmness. Above approximately 1800 m in the Silvretta, the Arlberg region and Ausserfern, as well as in the Northern Alps, there was as much as 30 cm of snowfall this morning, intensely transported by the generally strong westerly wind. Snowdrift accumulations in general, especially at high altitudes, are poorly bonded with the old snowpack, which until a week ago was exposed to very low temperatures. Since that old snowpack was highly irregular to begin with, due to wind influence and solar radiation, the new danger zones are usually not extremely large.

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

General weather: a warm front embedded inside a northwesterly air current is bringing rainfall to the northern flank of the Alps. Over the weekend, a high will gain dominance. Mountain weather today: clouds, fog and snowfall above approximately 1800 m in the Northern and Central Alps today; in East Tyrol the precipitation will extend all the way to the Carnic Alps. In the Dolomites of South Tyrol, it will be rather sunny. The freezing level will remain at 2200 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Stormy northwesterly winds on the northern flank of the Alps; elsewhere the winds will be of strong velocity.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Rising temperatures will cause moist sluffs even at high altitudes.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe