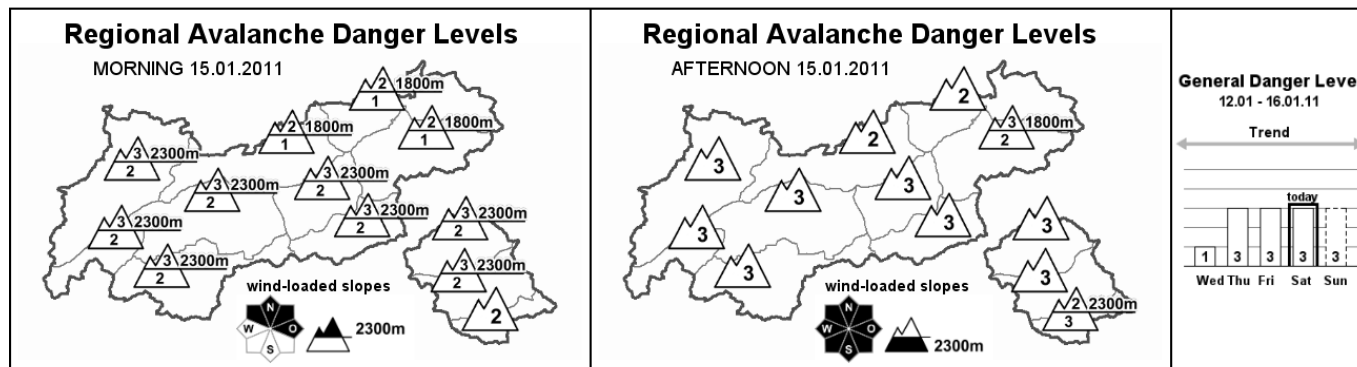


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 15.01.2011, at 07:30



### Escalating danger during the day - Beware snowdrift above 2300 m

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level will initially depend on the altitude, on the rising temperatures and on the time of day. Above 2300 m, considerable avalanche danger prevails, with the exception of the Northern Alps, Kitzbühel Alps and East Tyrolean Dolomites. Between about 2300 and 1800 m, the danger level is moderate in the regions which have not had rainfall; but this afternoon it will increase to considerable, as the snowpack becomes increasingly wet. Below 1800 m in the regions which have had little snow, the danger level is low, despite the wetness of the snowpack. Caution is thus imperative due to the increasing wetness of the snowpack, especially as of early afternoon. In extremely steep terrain, wet snow avalanches can be triggered below 2300 in particular. Naturally triggered avalanches are now unlikely, except for isolated full depth snowslides. The wind may slow down the moistening process somewhat. Above 2300 m, general caution is necessary towards the recently formed snowdrift accumulations which may be deeper in western regions, due to the greater amounts of fresh fallen snow. Such danger zones are to be found in northwest to north to east facing areas adjacent to ridge lines more than anywhere else, but also in steep gullies and bowls. The snowpack's proneness to triggering has been confirmed since yesterday by a number of avalanches which were triggered in the areas indicated above.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is thoroughly wet up to about 2200 m, in some places up to 2400 m and further. Until midnight last night, when the skies were relatively clear, it consolidated somewhat. This morning there was often a brittle melt-freeze crust evident; this will drastically soften over the course of the day, and the snowpack will forfeit its firmness again. A threatening potential bed surface: the old snowpack surface which until last week was exposed to low temperatures, which consists of loosely packed, faceted crystals. The bonding of fresh snowdrift with this old snowpack surface is generally poor above about 2300 m and becomes poorer with ascending altitude.

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

General weather: a weak cold front will swiftly traverse the land from west to east during the morning hours, causing a few showers on Tyrol's northern rim and sinking temperatures temporarily. Tomorrow, another high will build up, bringing milder air masses which will be with us until Monday. Mountain weather today: clouds and showers in the Northern Alps this morning, snowfall as of about 1400 m. The flurries will move eastwards, afterwards visibility will rapidly improve. However, a strong to stormy wind will prevail in many mountain areas. Brilliant sunshine awaits those on the southern flank of the Alps, but here, too, it will be windy. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees. Strong to storm velocity northwesterly winds this morning, slackening off somewhat this afternoon.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Springtime-like conditions.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe