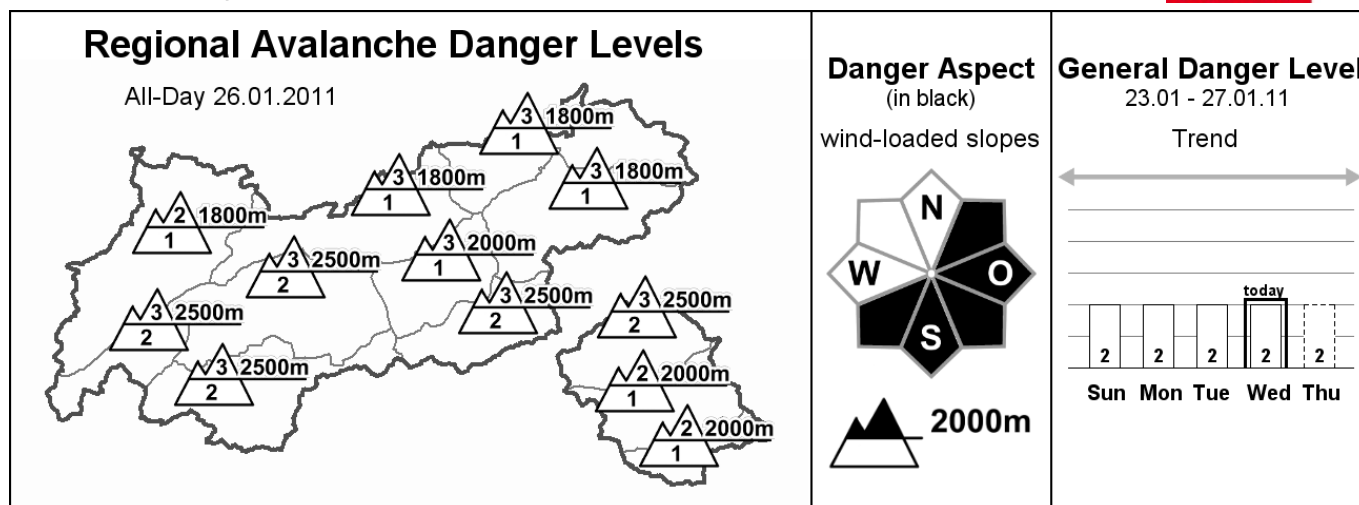


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 26.01.2011, at 07:30



### Snowfall and wind raise avalanche danger slightly, beware fresh snowdrift

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level has risen somewhat. In the sectors where snowfall was heaviest, in some areas right above the treeline, in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, at least above approximately 2500 m, it is now considerable. Below the treeline, low danger prevails throughout Tyrol with the exception of the eastern part of the Lower Inn Valley, where the danger level is moderate. The major peril for backcountry skiers are the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which can be triggered through minimal additional loading in very steep terrain. They occur most often in areas near ridge lines of northeastern to southern to southwestern exposition, in gullies and bowls they occur in all expositions. With a certain experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards, assuming adequate visibility, these danger zones can be recognized with ease. Elsewhere, the snowpack above approximately 2200 m, particularly on very steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes in the vicinity of broad ridges and crest lines with shallow snow can in isolated cases be triggered primarily by large additional loading.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been snowfall throughout Tyrol, with the exception of southern East Tyrol. In general there was between 5 and 10 cm of new fallen snow, in the eastern Lower Inn Valley as much as 35 cm. There were also strong winds blowing during the night, which transported the fresh fallen snow correspondingly. This gave rise to increasingly frequent snowdrift accumulations which in general are poorly bonded with the loosely packed, cold new fallen snow beneath it. Further weak layers: inside the snowpack are isolated faceted, loose snow crystals which formed during the extended cold period at the beginning of January. These areas are small in surface, found usually on north facing slopes at altitudes of 2200 to 2700 m, particularly in large, wind protected bowls. In isolated cases on south facing slopes around 2000 m are also faceted crystals which took shape just above the rain crust which formed on 13 January; this layer is only fragmentarily evident, thus making fracture propagation unlikely.

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

Weather in general: an active disturbance is slowly moving past, and will be followed by a high hovering close to the ground, helping it to gain dominance. In a few days, it will bring pleasant winter weather without precipitation, accompanied by temperatures above zero in the low lying areas. The easterly to southeasterly ground current may add high fog to this combination. Mountain weather today: the wind in the mountains will slacken off significantly over the course of the day. In the mountain ranges of North Tyrol, poor visibility still reigns, due to multi-layered cloudbanks. Some snowfall is also anticipated, particularly in the Lower Inn Valley, by evening 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected. On the southern flank of the Alps, conditions will be more pleasant, Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds will prevail to begin with, slackening off markedly during the day.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will slowly recede.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe