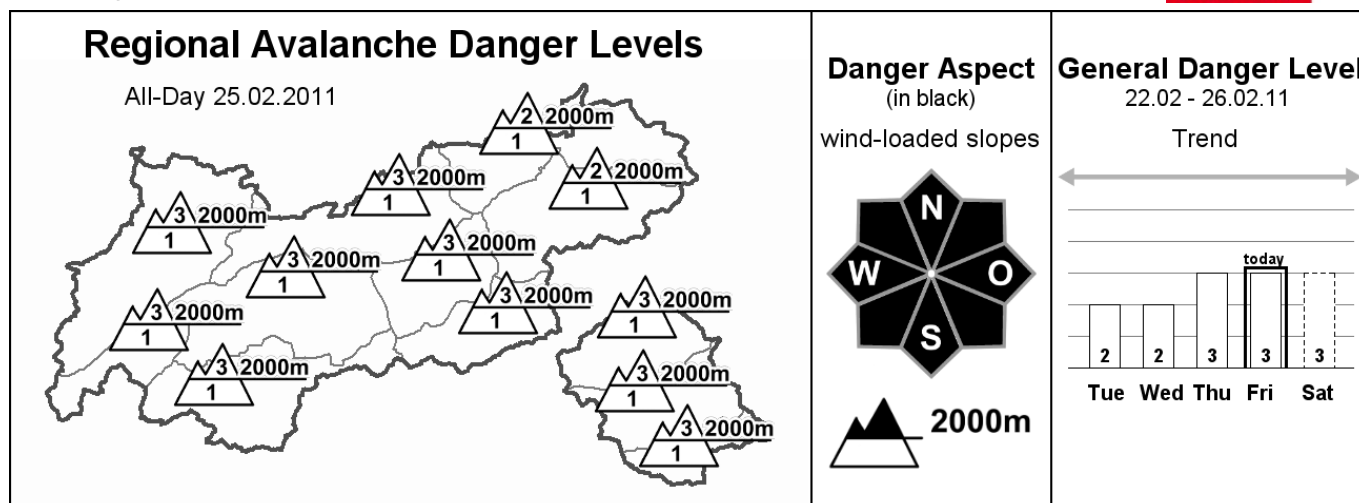


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 25.02.2011, at 07:30



### Considerable avalanche danger above 2000 m due to new snowdrift accumulations

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has escalated: above approximately 2000 m in most regions, it is now considerable. This is due to the ever strengthening northerly winds which since yesterday evening have formed new, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations in all expositions, occurring most frequently in east to south to west facing ridgeline areas and in gullies and bowls. The frequency of these danger zones increases with ascending altitude, as does the likelihood of releasing such snowdrift through even minimum additional loading. Above approximately 2700 m in extremely steep, south facing ridgeline areas, naturally triggered small to medium sized avalanches are likely. In addition, especially in the East Tyrolean Dolomites and the southern Ötztal and Stubai Alps in shady, ridgeline areas, caution is urged towards older snowdrift masses, which can be triggered primarily through large additional loading. Below about 2000 m, the avalanche danger is generally low, although caution towards drifted areas is also urged there.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Since yesterday evening, there has been another 5 cm of snowfall. East Tyrol got practically none. The snowpack below about 2000 m is generally stable. Recently formed snowdrift masses have now bonded well with the loosely packed old snowpack. Due to the strengthening winds, however, the generally loose powder snow is being transported. Especially above approximately 2000 m, this is poorly bonded with the old snowpack surface. A potential bed surface for slab avalanches is to be found on east to south to west facing slopes: loose, cold new fallen snow with a deposit of fresh graupel, on shady slopes, the loose, faceted snow.

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

Weather in general: a disturbance embedded in the northerly air current will reach North Tyrol today, creating northerly foehn wind conditions in South and East Tyrol. On Saturday, an intermediate high will make itself felt, on Sunday a low will approach from the west. At the beginning of next week, a weak high is expected to dominate. Mountain weather today: on the Main Alpine Ridge and in the western part of the Northern Alps, snowfall and poor visibility. About 5 to 10 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated, which will be intensely transported by the strong northerly winds. Around the Wilder Kaiser range, it will probably remain dry, intermittently it will be sunny. In the Dolomites, strong northerly winds and very sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Strong - at high altitudes, stormy - northerly winds. During the night tonight, the wind will slacken off significantly.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation. Solar radiation could briefly raise the proneness to triggering avalanches tomorrow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe