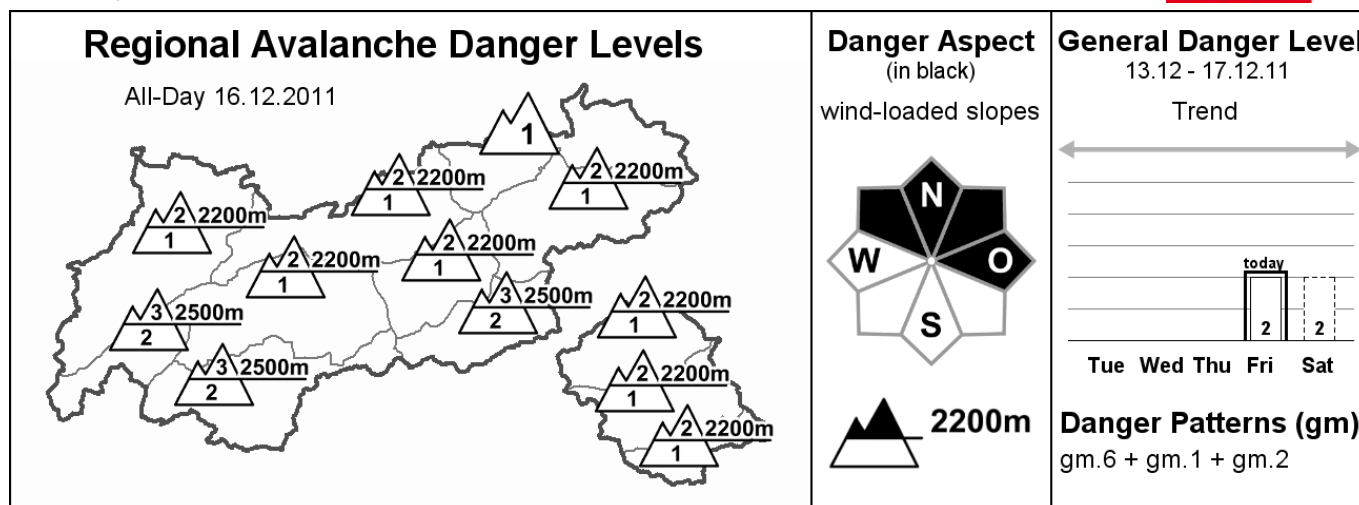


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 16.12.2011, at 07:30



**Fresh snowdrift, especially above 2200 m, is perilous - Beware ridgeline areas and shady slopes**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is considerable in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m; between 2500 and 2200 m it is moderate; below 2200 m it is low. In the remaining regions, the peril is equally contingent on altitude: above 2200 m the danger is generally moderate; below that altitude, low. In the regions with especially little snow, it is low in general. Caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift masses above about 2200 m, which occur often in steep areas near ridgelines in all expositions, as well as in gullies and bowls. With ascending altitude, the likelihood of avalanche triggerings tends to rise. Great prudence is necessary on steep, shady slopes above approximately 2600 m, where the snow layering is currently the least favourable. Avalanches can easily be triggered by minimum additional loading in those places. On steep, grassy meadows, isolated sluffs are possible.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is quite variable and irregular. Deeply drifted areas can be found adjacent to areas utterly bare of snow. There is much more snow in western than in eastern regions. The least favourable snow layering is currently shady terrain above about 2600 m. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, this is the case on west to north to east facing slopes, where during the clear weather of November the snowpack from autumn slowly transformed to loosely packed depth hoar. In some places, surface hoar has now formed atop this old snowpack. Snowdrift which formed over the last week is very poorly bonded in general.

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

Weather in general: a small scale low pressure zone will move from the English Channel towards the Benelux countries today, mutating to a gale force low system along the way. To begin with, Tirol will lie in the path of storm strength westerly and southwesterly warm winds. This evening, a cold front will follow, with winds shifting to northwesterly and the snowfall level swiftly dropping. Arctic air will turn the atmosphere wintery tomorrow. Mountain weather today: inhospitable conditions in the mountains, with storm winds rising to gale force in some places. In addition, until midday rainfall is expected up to just under 2000 m on the rim of the Northern Alps, whereas in the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge the snow will extend down to 1000 m and lower. During the afternoon, the snowfall level will sink towards 1000 m everywhere, starting in the west. Then tomorrow, widespread snowfall is anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: until midday minus 1 to plus 2 degrees, by evening dropping to minus 3 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 degrees, descending to minus 8 to minus 11 degrees this evening. Westerly to southwesterly storm or gale strength winds, shifting this evening to northwesterly.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Rising danger, amidst snowfall and storm winds

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe