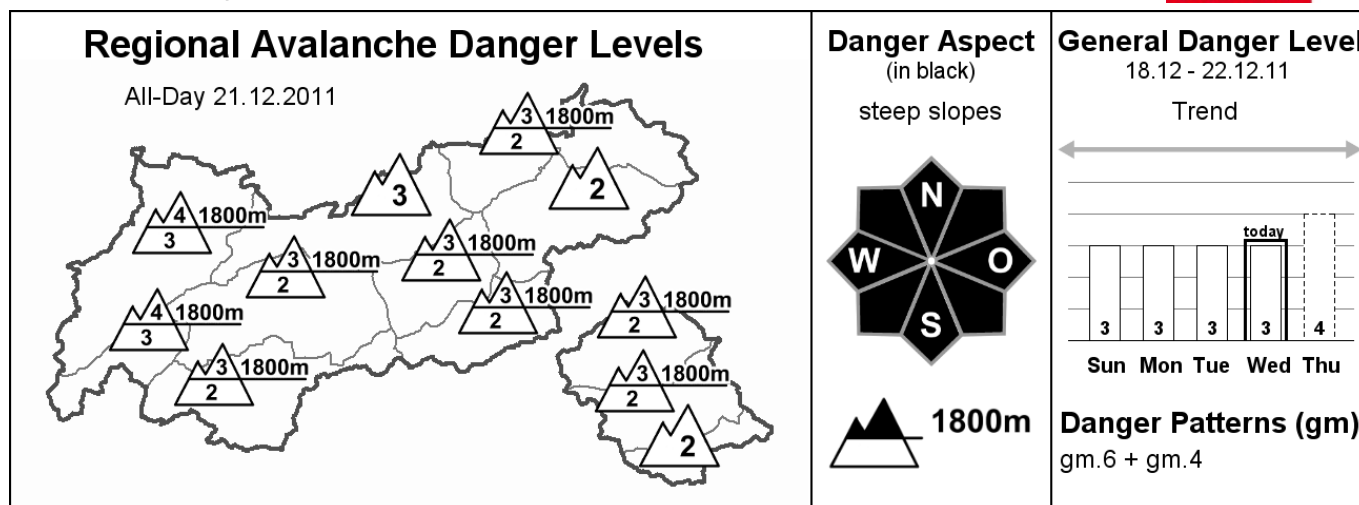


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 21.12.2011, at 07:30



**Critical avalanche situation: high avalanche danger in some western regions!**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol is critical in some places. Particularly in the regions of the Arlberg and Silvretta where snowfall has been heaviest, the danger is high. Great caution is imperative towards the increasingly frequent naturally triggered avalanches, which in isolated cases can also endanger exposed transportation routes. It is advised not to leave the secured ski runs. In Ausserfern, along the Northern Alps and the Main Alpine Ridge, the danger is considerable widespread. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions, especially over approximately 1800 m. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single person. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required for all backcountry touring and freeriding activities.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been heavy snowfall in places: in the Arlberg region, 30 to 50 cm; in the Silvretta, 30 to 40 cm; in Ausserfern and the Northern Alps, up to 30 cm. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, there was 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow. In inneralpine regions and the Lower Inn Valley, as well as in East Tirol (not including the Tauern Ridge) there was less than 10 cm. The northwesterly wind was generally strong enough to transport snow, thus again giving rise to far reaching snowdrift accumulations. As the wind gains in strength today, the fresh fallen snow will be ongoingly transported. Both new fallen snow and snowdrift have been deposited atop a snowpack in which several trigger sensitive layers are embedded: above approximately 2400 m on shady slopes the fundament consists of unbonded depth hoar in many places. In addition, the highly disparate temperatures at intermediate altitudes have created a layer of loosely packed, faceted crystals which could serve as a bed surface for avalanches in many places. And finally, the borderline between the new fallen snow and the snowdrift can be disturbed with relative ease.

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

Weather in general: Tirol lies on the back of winter's first warm front clinging to the barrier of the Alps. The next warm front will reach North Tirol over the course of the day today in a strong northwesterly air current. It will bring further precipitation extending well into the day on Friday, amidst slightly higher temperatures. Mountain weather today: deep winter conditions, accompanied by fog and snowfall in the Northern Alps which will reintensify this afternoon. Atop the already fallen snow of 20 to 60 cm, an additional 10 to 30 cm of snowfall is anticipated by tomorrow morning. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 16 degrees. Strong northwesterly winds, and getting stronger.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst further snowfall, avalanche danger will continue to escalate.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe