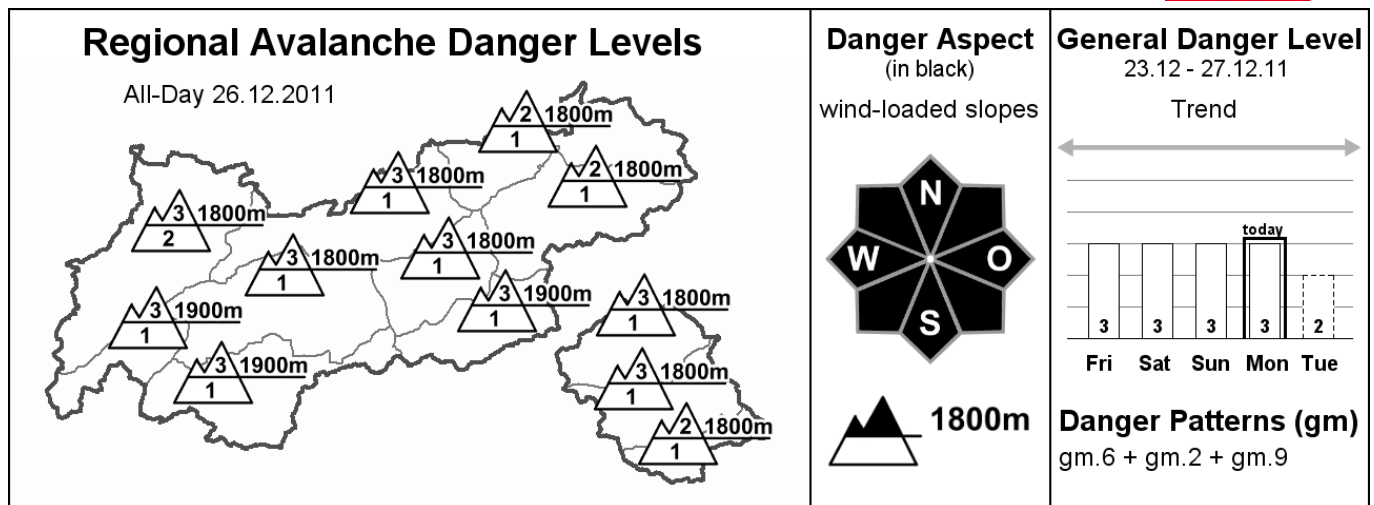


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 26.12.2011, at 07:30



### The major peril: fresh snowdrift above treeline

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude. Above the treeline in the Kitzbühel Alps, eastern part of the Northern Alps and the Dolomites of East Tirol, moderate danger prevails; in the remaining regions, the danger above the treeline is considerable; below the treeline the danger level is low, except in the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions. The most serious hazards stem from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are especially frequent in areas adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects as well as in gullies and bowls and with sufficient experience can be easily recognized. Above approximately 2500 m, in addition, particularly in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, danger lurks on very steep, shady slopes: the snowpack has a weak layer near the ground which, particularly in spots with shallow snow, can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider and unleash medium size avalanches. Especially in western regions where snowfall was heaviest, in addition, isolated full depth snowslides can be expected on steep, grassy slopes. Ordinarily, the peril of full depth snowslides is imminent when glide cracks appear in the snowpack surface. The zones beneath such cracks should for that reason be avoided altogether.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack has been intensely influenced by wind over the last few days, particularly in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge. The result is extremely irregular snow distribution, poor quality snow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. With ascending altitude, the proneness to triggering of these snowdrift masses tends to increase. The borderline between the new fallen snow and the snowdrift is a potential bed surface for avalanches; as is the graupel which is embedded in some parts of the snowpack in western regions. Above approximately 2500 m, in addition, particularly in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, the fundament consists of depth hoar from the residual snows of autumn. Its bonding to the old snowpack which lies on top of it is generally quite poor.

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

Weather in general: a high pressure system is moving towards Central Europe from the west. The cloudbanks from the the warm front over Tirol's eastern regions are withdrawing. The high will dominate Tirol's weather until Wednesday. Mountain weather today: good conditions for backcountry skiing and freeriding. East of Innsbruck, the morning will be cloudy; from the west, sunshine will spread throughout Tirol over the course of the day. On the southern flank of the Alps, it will be sunny all day long. During the afternoon, the freezing level will climb to 2500 m. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 3 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

With rising temperatures, an improving avalanche situation. Danger still depends on altitude.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe