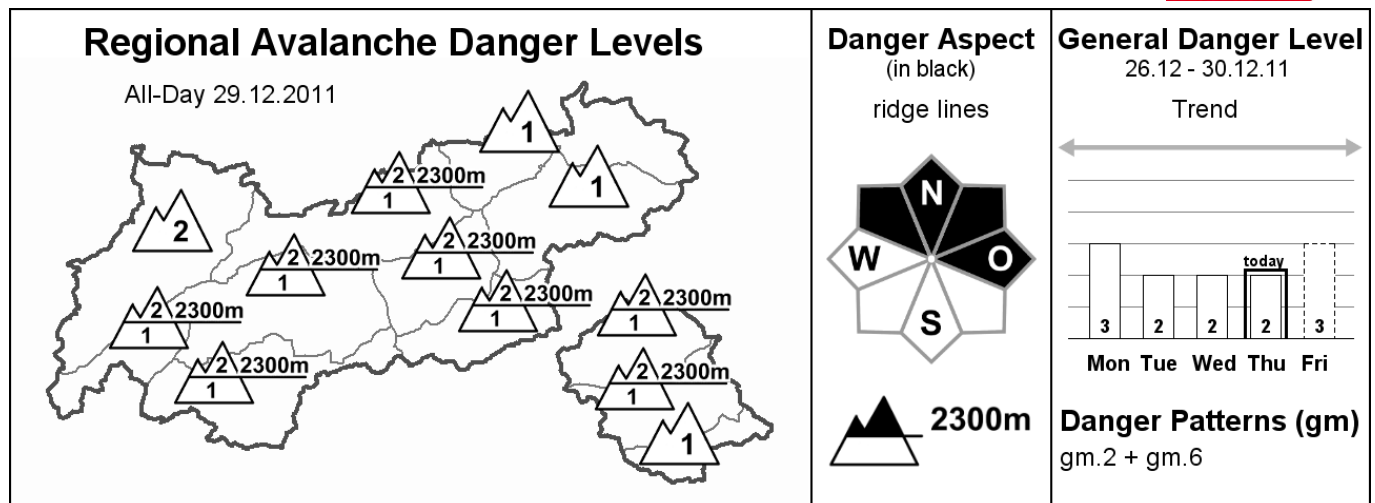


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 29.12.2011, at 07:30



## Danger spots recognizable, otherwise favourable backcountry touring conditions

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Favourable backcountry touring conditions prevail widespread today. In general, the avalanche danger depends on altitude. Below about 2300 m the danger level in many regions is low, above that altitude it is moderate. In Arlberg-Ausserfern, the general danger level is moderate, due to the higher likelihood of full depth snowslides; in the eastern part of the Northern Alps, the Kitzbühel Alps and the Dolomites of East Tyrol, the danger level is low. Avalanche prone locations are still to be found on steep, grassy slopes, despite the lower temperatures. Yesterday's avalanche accident below the Jöchls Spitze was just such a full depth snowslide. These avalanches usually indicate imminent release through a glide crack in the snowpack surface, making them easy to recognize. Slab avalanches can still be triggered in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge on very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2500 m in particular, primarily through large additional loading. In addition, freshly formed, usually small sized snowdrift masses, especially in areas adjacent to ridgelines at high altitudes, require special caution today.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is generally stable. The exception is above approximately 2500 m along the Main Alpine Ridge, where a pronounced layer of depth hoar could serve as a potential bed surface for slab avalanches. Fresh snowdrift will form over the course of the day today and bond poorly with the usually loosely packed old snowpack on steep, shady slopes.

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

Weather in general: a cold front will swiftly traverse the land today, followed by powerful disturbances on Friday and Saturday. On New Year's Day, a warm front will bring a brief interim of milder air masses. Mountain weather today: predominantly dense clouds and light snow showers this morning, particularly in the Northern and Central Alps, bringing about 5 to 10 cm of snowfall. This afternoon, heavily overcast in the Southern Alps as well, accompanied by light snowfall. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 to minus 9 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 to minus 15 degrees. Brisk westerly winds, stronger at high altitudes.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Heavy snowfall accompanied by strong wind will increase avalanche danger in some places. New danger spots in the form of fresh snowdrift accumulations will arise.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe