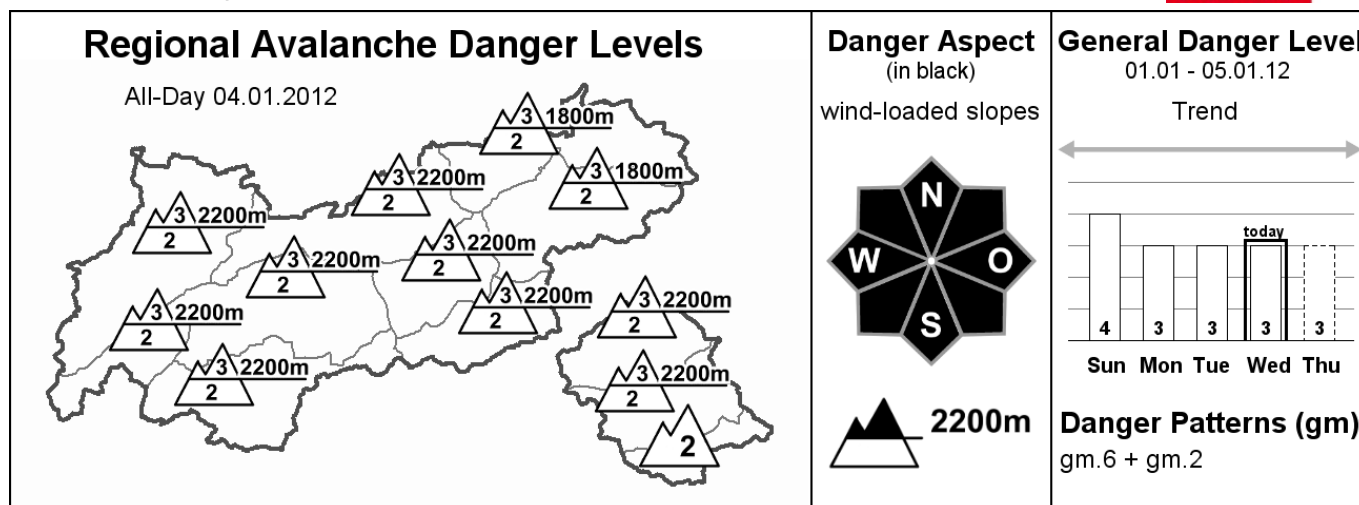


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 04.01.2012, at 07:30



### Avalanche danger is considerable above 2200 m

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is considerable widespread above approximately 2200 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed, generally small sized accumulations of snowdrift. This drifted snow is poorly bonded with the new fallen snow lying directly beneath it, making it relatively easy to trigger as avalanches: no more than minimum additional loading is necessary, i.e. the weight of one single backcountry skier or freerider. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs require extensive experience in evaluating avalanche dangers. Below about 2000 m, naturally triggered full depth snowslides are still possible in isolated cases.

#### SNOW LAYERING

The westerly to southwesterly winds yesterday attained the strength needed to transport the snow, giving rise to new, relatively small snowdrift accumulations. These drifted masses of snow have generally been deposited on top of cold, loosely packed fresh fallen snow. Thus, the bonding is inadequate, making them quite prone to triggering. The old snowpack has by now settled well and is relatively stable. However, caution is urged towards one prevalent weakness: the fundament on shady slopes above approximately 2500 m (in other aspects above approximately 2800 m) frequently consists of loosely packed, unbonded depth hoar.

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

Weather in general: Over the next few days, a series of perturbances will be funneled from the Atlantic towards the Alps, some of them heavily laden with moisture and accompanied by westerly to northwesterly winds ranging in velocity from strong to storm strength, on Thursday night even reaching gale strength. Extremely heavy snowfall is expected in the mountains. Mountain weather today: North Tyrol's peaks all the way to the East Tirolean Tauern are shrouded in fog today, it is snowing. Towards the Lechtal Alps and the Arlberg, snowfall will be intermittently intense this morning. In the course of the afternoon, the snow showers will slacken off as temperatures drop and gusty winds increase, there will be interims of tranquility, even occasional sunny spells in between. From the Ortler and Dolomites southwards, visibility will be quite good, accompanied by next to no snowfall whatsoever. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Strong, gusty westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Amidst snowfall and wind, escalating avalanche hazards: reaching danger level 'high' regionally

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe