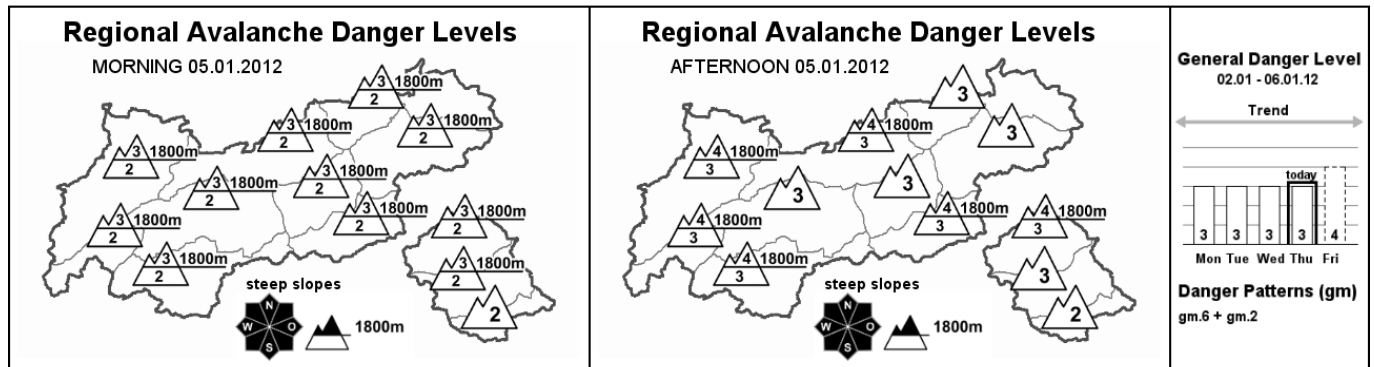


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 05.01.2012, at 07:30



## Escalating avalanche danger, accompanied by snowfall and storm

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The combination of quickly dropping temperatures, plus heavy snowfall, plus storm velocity winds will create a critical avalanche situation in Tyrol as of this afternoon. The danger level this morning is generally considerable, but as snowfall sets in this afternoon will rise to 'high' widespread. The precipitation is expected to be heaviest along the Northern Alps, in Arlberg/Ausserfern, in the Silvretta and along the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge. By Friday evening, as much as 100 cm of snowfall is expected here! Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, primarily above approximately 1800 m. More than anything else, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered as avalanches with relative ease. The frequency and spread of danger zones will increase over the course of the day. Conditions in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs will become increasingly critical; backcountry skiing and freeriding tours require immense experience. Even the peril of naturally triggered avalanches is escalating. They can fracture down to deeply embedded layers of the snowpack in isolated cases and subsequently attain large size. Furthermore, full depth snowslides continue to be expected below about 2000 m.

### SNOW LAYERING

The old snowpack has settled well, generally speaking, and is now quite stable. Nonetheless, caution is urged towards a trigger sensitive fundament consisting of depth hoar, particularly along the Main Alpine Ridge on shady slopes above approximately 2500 m (in other aspects, above approximately 2800 m). In addition, the repeated bouts of new fallen snow, followed by storm strength winds, create an ever-changing situation, continually giving rise to new, widespread snowdrift accumulations. The bonding between the various layers of fresh fallen snow and drifted snow is generally quite poor, making it extremely trigger sensitive. ATTENTION: special caution is urged towards the storm velocity northwesterly wind!

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

Weather in general: On the edge of a low pressure disturbance system over Scandinavia, the Alps lie in the path of a storm to gale strength westerly to northwesterly air current in which a compendium of weather fronts lies embedded. This, combined with barrier cloud effects against the flanks of the Alps, will bring heavy snowfall to North Tyrol by Friday evening. Following improved conditions for a brief interim on Saturday, the next round of snowfall will unfold Saturday evening and on Sunday. Mountain weather today: Caution, heavy snowfall and gale strength winds will continue until this evening! Until shortly after noon, the snowfall will be moderate, intensifying this afternoon, evening and during the night. By tomorrow morning there may be huge amounts of new fallen snow in the mountains of North Tyrol, which will then be transported by storm strength winds. On the southern flank of the Alps, the snowfall will tend to be less. Temperature at 2000 m: dropping throughout the day from minus 3 to minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: dropping from minus 8 to minus 13 degrees. Storm velocity westerly winds, shifting this afternoon to northwesterly. This evening and during the night, wind gusts will reach gale strength.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

High avalanche danger widespread, as snowfall and storm winds persist

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