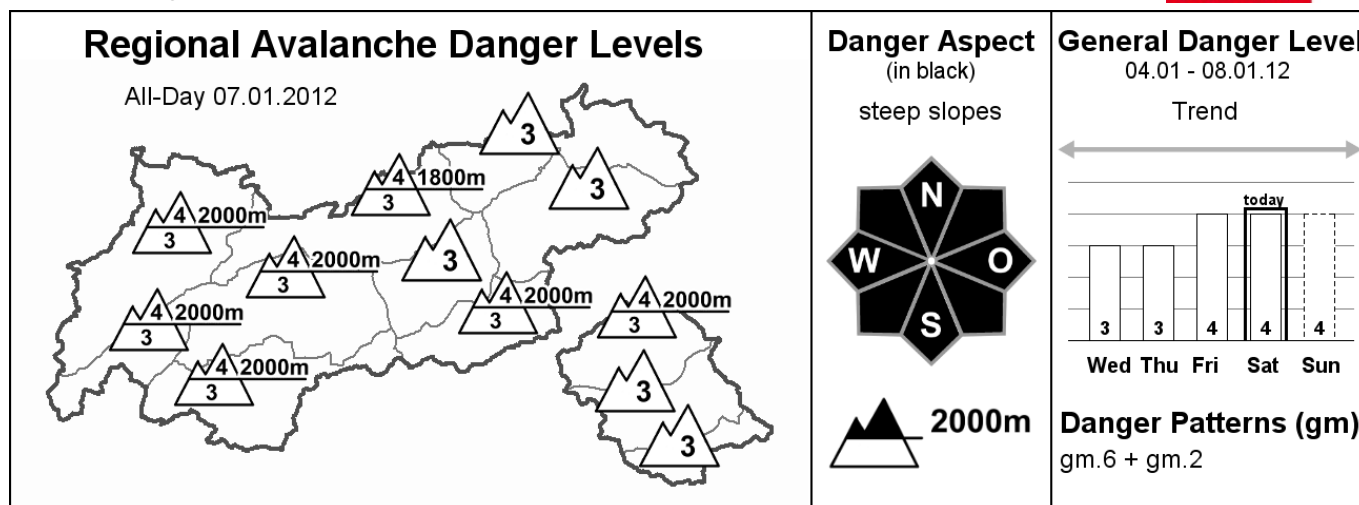


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

### Saturday, 07.01.2012, at 07:30



## Avalanche situation is critical, high danger widespread

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol remains tense, the peril far and wide is high. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, with both frequency and spread of the danger zones tending to increase with ascending altitude. Conditions in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs are critical; avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Those without extensive experience are urgently advised to remain on the ski runs which have been secured. Naturally triggered avalanches of medium and large size are expected today, which in turn can endanger exposed sectors of transportation routes. Furthermore, below about 2000 m, full depth snowslides can be naturally triggered.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours in the Arlberg/Ausserfern and Silvretta regions as well as the western part of the Northern Alps, there has been an additional 40 to 60 cm of snowfall. In the eastern part of the Northern Alps, Kitzbühel Alps, Ötztal, Stubai and Zillertal Alps, as well as the Tauern Ridge in East Tirol, there has been 20 to 50 cm of new fallen snow. Thus, in the last 48 hours there has been, particularly in the barrier cloud regions of western Tirol, 80 to 120 cm of fresh fallen snow, from region to region even more! The storm velocity northwesterly wind slackened off by evening, but easily remained strong enough to continue transporting masses of snow, giving rise to wide reaching snowdrift accumulations. The bonding between the various layers of new fallen and drifted snow is generally poor, making it highly trigger sensitive, as was confirmed by the numerous large sized avalanches yesterday. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, more than anywhere else, caution is urged on high alpine, shady slopes, where the fundament often consists of loosely packed, unbonded depth hoar.

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

Weather in general: On the heels of the low pressure system containing a complex of fronts which came from the northwest, conditions will improve for a brief interim this morning. The next round of heavy precipitation will be launched Saturday afternoon and extend until Monday, bringing an additional 40 to 80 cm of snowfall. Mountain weather today: only a brief spell of improved conditions this morning, the clouds will draw closed by noon, but it will be dry. This afternoon, increasing snowfall and snow showers will set in from the northwest. In the Southern Alps, sunny and windy this morning. Overcast this afternoon, with snow showers towards the Main Alpine Ridge. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 to minus 10 degrees. Strong velocity northwesterly winds this afternoon.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

With newly arriving snowfall and storm strength winds, absolutely NO improvement of the critical avalanche situation!

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe