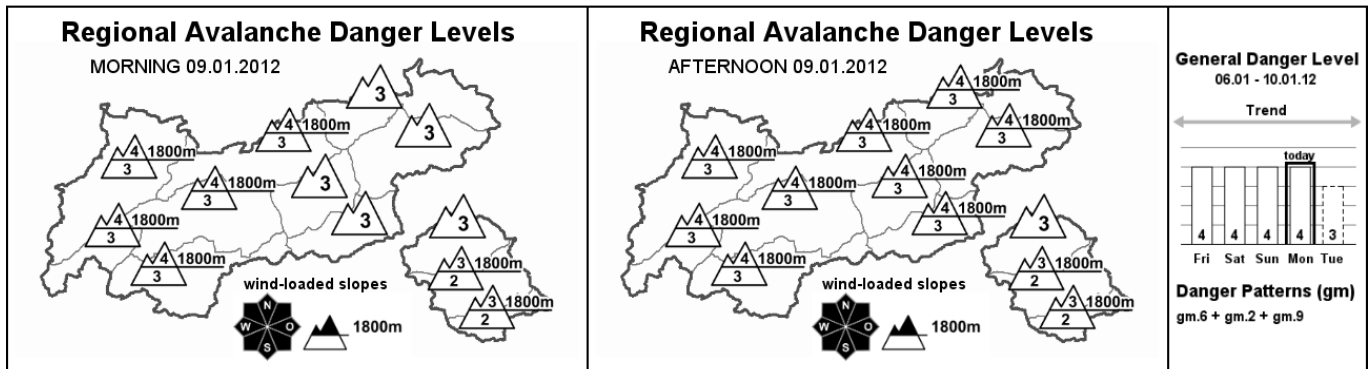


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 09.01.2012, at 07:30



## Ongoing high avalanche danger, amidst snowfall and wind, above the treeline in North Tirol

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level above the treeline in the western regions of North Tirol is 'high' this morning. Over the course of the day, it is expected to escalate to high above the treeline in eastern regions as well, due to the forecast snowfall and storm strength winds in some places. Naturally triggered avalanches can be expected increasingly often from steep areas near ridgelines today, particularly in southwestern to southern to eastern aspects. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, in addition, naturally triggered slab avalanches can be triggered above approximately 2500 m on the very steep, shady slopes of large bowls in isolated cases; these avalanches may well attain large size. By and large, very unfavourable conditions prevail above the treeline for backcountry skiers and freeriders today. Avalanche prone locations in the form of freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are to be found in all aspects. Extensive experience in evaluating avalanche hazards is a basic requirement for being in open terrain above the treeline today. Comparatively more favourable conditions prevail in East Tirol, where the danger is receding from the north towards the south.

### SNOW LAYERING

There has once again been snowfall, in some places heavy snowfall in Tirol. The western and northern regions of North Tirol received the most intense precipitation, with up to 50 cm of fresh fallen snow, elsewhere there was generally 20 to 30 cm; in East Tirol about 10 cm. The northerly wind has slackened off somewhat, but is still well above the windspeed necessary to transport snow and is expected to intensify over the course of the day today. Freshly formed snowdrift is brittle, making it easy to release. In the regions where the snow depths are greatest there are no weak layers inside the old snowpack; the danger zones are to be found in the layers closest to the surface, on top of which heavy masses of snowdrift have been deposited. In isolated cases, graupel has also become embedded in those layers. Exclusively in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, the snowpack, particularly above approximately 2500 m, can fracture in deeply embedded layers, where depth hoar from autumn is still evident.

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

Weather in general: a moderately strong warm front lies embedded inside a northern air current which will reach us today or tomorrow, bringing precipitation whose focal point will be the Lower Inn Valley. On Tuesday, precipitation will ease off from the west; on Wednesday and Thursday, a high pressure zone will make itself felt. Mountain weather today: in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, conditions will improve this morning until afternoon, including bright intervals, accompanied by light snowfall towards eastern regions. This afternoon and evening and during the night, snowfall and strong winds are expected, bringing 10 to 30 cm of new fallen snow; the heaviest snowfall is anticipated from the Brenner eastwards and in the Kitzbühel Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Brisk to strong velocity northwesterly to northerly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is expected to recede as precipitation and wind subside.

Patrick Nairz

freephone: +43(0)800 800 503

+43(0)512 581839 503

lawine@tirol.gv.at

http://lawine.tirol.gv.at

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe