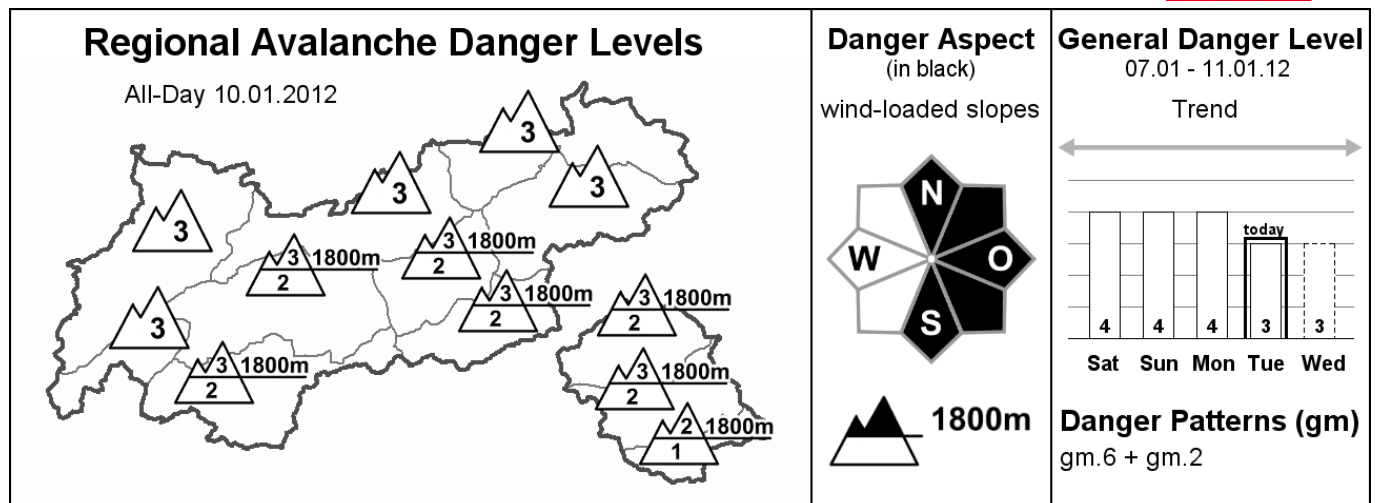


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 10.01.2012, at 07:30



**Beware fresh snowdrift above treeline; snowslides on steep, grassy slopes**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is now gradually receding, the danger level is considerable widespread. Below the treeline in regions which had less snowfall, moderate danger prevails. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations and snowslides on steep, grassy slopes. Snowdrift masses are extremely far reaching in the western and northwestern regions of Tyrol; in very steep terrain, they can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Due to the stormy winds in many places, new snowdrift masses are expected to form again today. Such accumulations are often to be found near ridgelines in northern to eastern to southern aspects above approximately 2000 m. With ascending altitude, their trigger sensitivity increases. It cannot be excluded that snowdrift accumulations between 2000 m and 2400 m on very steep, sunny slopes are naturally triggered today. An additional hazard lies in full depth snowslides on steep, grassy slopes at low and intermediate altitudes in all aspects. Full depth snowslides usually announce imminent danger through glide cracks in the snowpack; thus all terrain below such cracks should be assiduously avoided. Backcountry skiers and freeriders in outlying terrain above the treeline require experience in assessing avalanche danger.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snow depths are above average for North Tyrol at this point in the season. At some observation stations, the maximum levels have already been exceeded. The old snowpack is, for the most part, quite stable. Weak layers are lacking, by and large. In isolated cases near the treeline there is a thin, faceted layer which formed around New Year's Day; it is not especially pronounced or widespread, however. In the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, on the other hand, caution is urged towards a layer of depth hoar near the ground in terrain above approximately 2500 m, which can be released by backcountry skiers in places where the snow is shallow. The fresh snowdrift masses on the borderline to the new fallen snow atop of which it was deposited is easiest of all to trigger.

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

Weather in general: the final round of precipitation from clouds lodged against the alpine barrier will arrive today. Tomorrow, a high pressure zone will spread from France and Spain and make its influence felt in the Alps. Also on Thursday, high pressure and mild. On Friday, a powerful northerly air current will bring a moderately strong cold front. Mountain weather today: very strong northerly winds will sweep past, letting loose some snow showers, as much as 15 cm in the Lower Inn Valley, elsewhere generally 5 to 10 cm. This afternoon, conditions will improve, including bright intervals in the Upper Inn Valley and around Innsbruck. In the Dolomites, strong northerly winds will make it quite sunny. Tonight will be dry, with clear skies. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 12 degrees. Strong northwesterly to northerly wind, in high alpine regions and the Lower Inn Valley the wind will reach storm strength, then slacken off this evening.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger continues to decrease

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe