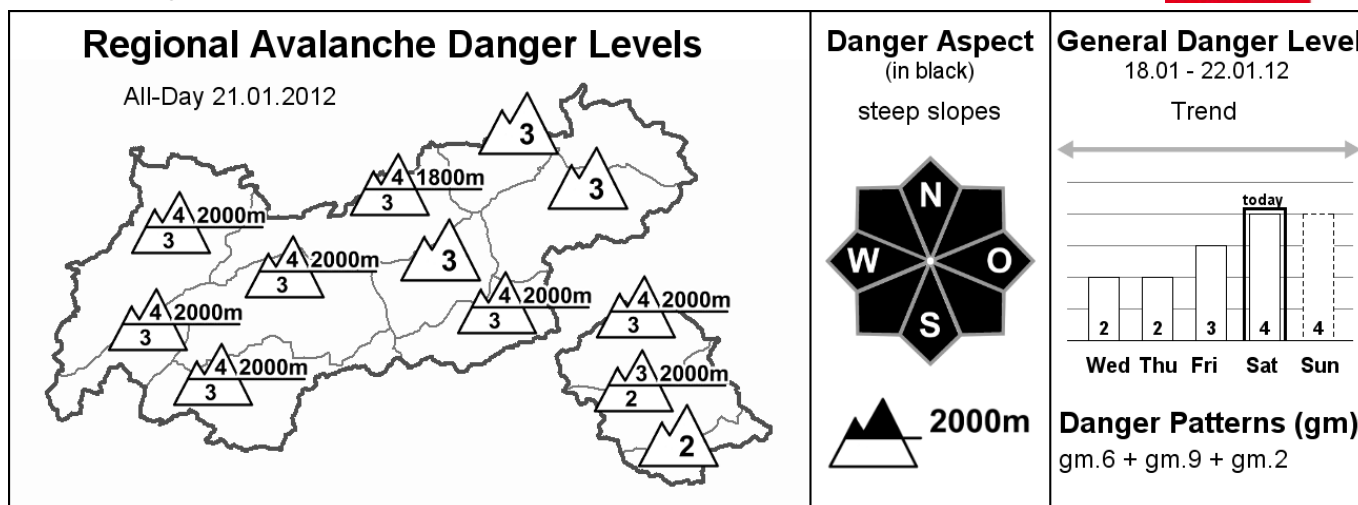


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

### Saturday, 21.01.2012, at 07:30



## Critical avalanche situation, high avalanche danger in some regions

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Predominantly unfavourable conditions prevail in Tirol's backcountry touring regions, the avalanche danger in the major areas of snowfall is high widespread. The most perilous hazard stems from freshly formed, extensive snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, particularly above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. from one single skier or freerider. Those without experience are urgently advised not to leave the secured ski runs. Naturally triggered avalanches, which due to the above average snow depths can even attain large size if they fracture down to the ground, are anticipated with increasing frequency. Below about 2400 m, full depth snowslides continue to be expected, which in isolated cases can place exposed sections of transportation routes at risk.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been a new round of snowfall, in some places intense: the western Northern Alps, Ausserfern, Arlberg and Silvretta received 40 to 70 cm of new fallen snow; the Stubai and Ötztal Alps 30 to 60 cm; the Tux and Zillertal Alps, eastern Northern Alps and Kitzbühel Alps 30 to 50 cm; East Tirolean Tauern 30 to 40 cm; central East Tirol maximum 25 cm; southern East Tirol 10 to 20 cm. The snowfall was accompanied by strong to stormy winds which shifted from westerly to northwesterly, and subsequently gave rise to extensive new snowdrift accumulations. The old snowpack has settled and consolidated well, it is stable far and wide. A fundament of loosely packed depth hoar in high alpine regions along the Main Alpine Ridge requires caution. The bonding of the fresh fallen and drifted snow with the surface of the old snowpack is generally weak, making it highly trigger sensitive. In addition, weak layers have formed inside the new fallen snow which could serve as bed surfaces for avalanches.

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

Weather in general: a warm front will bring precipitation to the northern flank of the Alps today, some of it intense. Tomorrow, Sunday, the next cold front will follow on its heels from the northwest. In the early part of next week, the moist northwesterly air current will continue to dominant Tirol's weather. On the southern flank of the Alps clement conditions are expected. Mountain weather today: storm and snowfall on the northern flank of the Alps, bringing up to 40 cm of intensely transported new fallen snow from the Arlberg over Ausserfern to the Kitzbühel Alps. All around the Main Alpine Ridge, 20 to 30 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated; in the Southern Alps, maximum 10 cm. Towards evening, the precipitation will slacken off, but recommence during the night in North Tirol. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Strong to stormy northwesterly winds at high altitude.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No rapid improvement in the avalanche situation is expected

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe