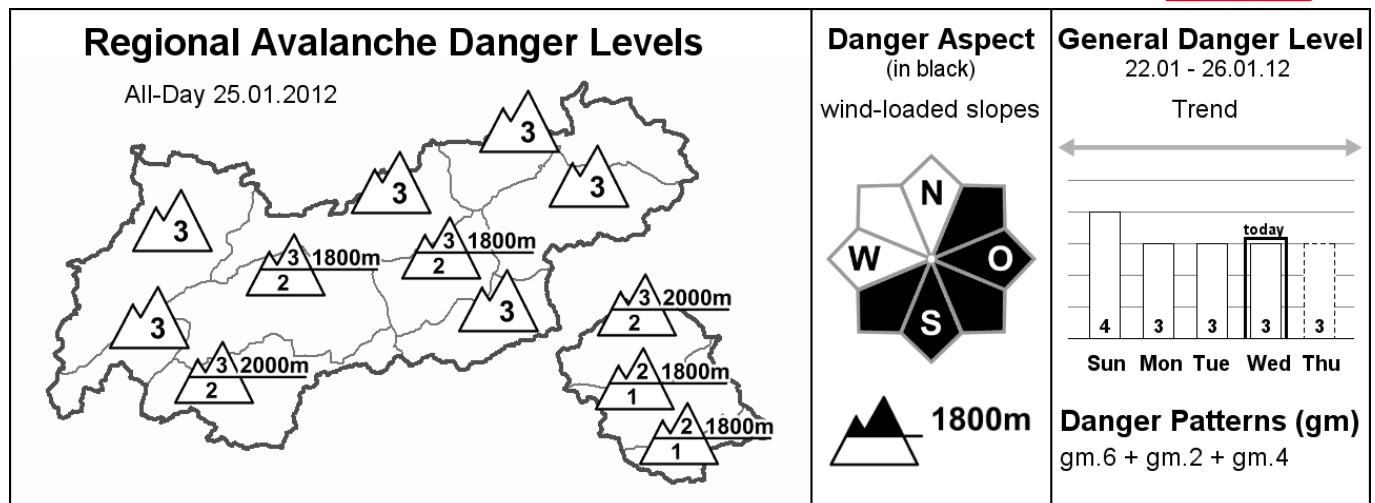


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 25.01.2012, at 07:30



### In regions of heaviest snowfall, a briefly treacherous situation

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

In those regions of Tirol where snowfall was heaviest, namely, Silvretta-Samnaun, Arlberg-Ausserfern, Northern Alps, Kitzbühel Alps and Zillertal Alps, the avalanche danger is considerable. Elsewhere the danger level depends on altitude. Backcountry skiers and freeriders should be restrained in very steep terrain, since four distinct danger scenarios threaten: most critical are the snowdrift accumulations which have formed since yesterday, which can be easily triggered by minimum additional loading and occur frequently in northeast to east to southeast facing ridgeline areas and in gullies and bowls above the treeline. Then, the new fallen snow can be released in very steep terrain between about 1500 and 1800 m in all aspects, due to a weak, thin layer. Through the daytime warming, the trigger sensitivity will increase somewhat over the course of the day. On steep, grassy slopes the peril of full depth snowslides which can reach medium size continues. And then, in isolated cases in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge above approximately 2500 m in spots with shallow snow, slab avalanches can be triggered in a weak layer near the ground primarily through large additional loading.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has again been snowfall in Tirol, generally about 20 cm, from place to place as much as 35 cm. The predominantly northerly wind brought about wide ranging transport, and the snowdrift remains relatively easy to trigger, since the low temperatures bond it inadequately to the fresh fallen snow. In some North Tirolean regions, in addition, a thin rain crust formed on Sunday up to about 1800 m (in the Ötztal Alps only up to 1500 m), and now a thin, faceted layer which can serve as bed surface for slab avalanches has built up adjacent to that crust. Above approximately 2500 m, especially in the regions along the Main Alpine Ridge, there is still a fundament of depth hoar from early winter.

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

Weather in general: Tirol lies in the path of a high pressure system, the air will become significantly drier today and on Thursday. On Friday, a new perturbation will approach from the west, conditions will become unstable Mountain weather today: increasing sunshine amidst rising temperatures. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 11 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 to minus 14 degrees. Moderate northwesterly wind at high altitudes, elsewhere the winds will be lighter.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is slowly decreasing

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe