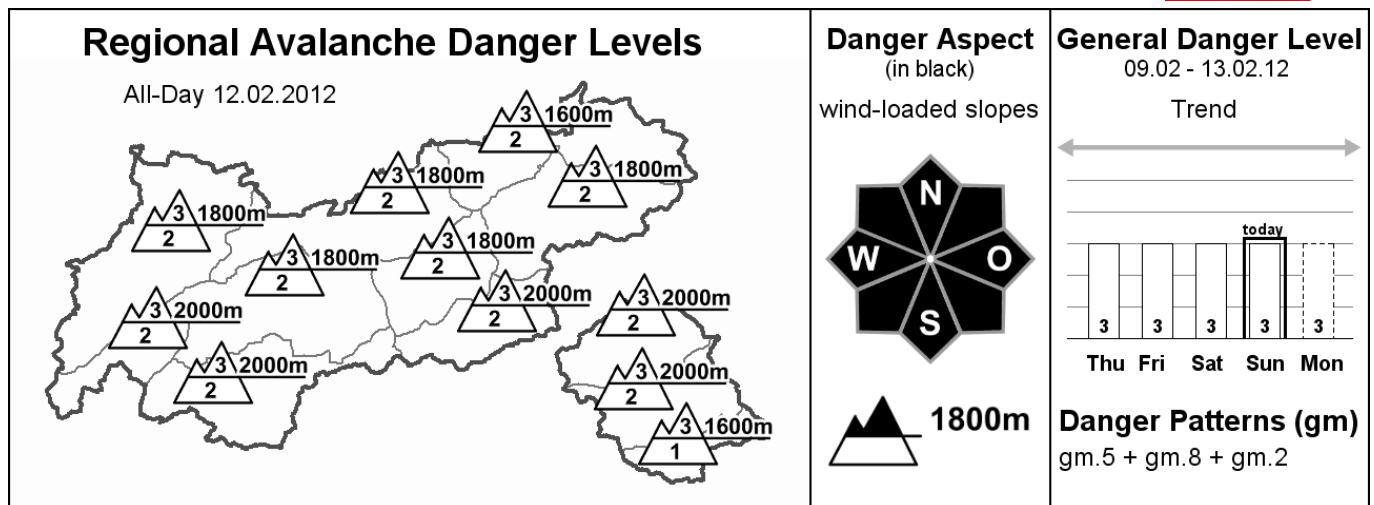


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 12.02.2012, at 07:30



### Continued caution necessary towards recent, often trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains dependent on altitude. Above the treeline, considerable danger prevails widespread; below that altitude, the danger level is moderate. The primary hazard stems from snowdrift accumulations which formed over the last week and are generally very prone to triggering. Their trigger sensitivity has been confirmed by several avalanches involving people during the last few days. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in south to west to north facing ridgeline areas as well as in gullies and bowls in all aspects. With experience in evaluating avalanche dangers, these hazardous zones can be easily recognized. The situation is more favourable where there has been no wind influence, as well as in terrain which is continually being trodden or skied on. Full depth snowslides remain a peril this winter; they can be released at any time on steep, grassy slopes, particularly where large glide cracks appear. Areas below such cracks should be avoided whenever possible.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Once again, the wind impact has been highly varied from place to place, making blanket statements about the distribution of avalanche prone locations difficult. In general, snowdrift accumulations, while often small sized, remain highly trigger sensitive. This is due to the faceted snow surface, atop of which surface hoar has often formed, which is very poorly bonded to drifted snow deposited on top of it. Shooting cracks and whumping sounds are often indicators of imminent avalanche danger. The more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are generally quite solid. Only in high alpine regions is there a layer of depth hoar near ground level which currently is unlikely to trigger.

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

Weather in general: From the east, cold air masses continue to flow at low altitude to Tirol. Over the Mediterranean, a low pressure system is rotating, whose weakened outer rim extends as far as the southeastern Alps. Mountain weather today: Residual fog up to about 1800 m will cling to the mountains from the Arlberg to the Karwendel. Elsewhere in North Tirol, sunshine will dominate, amidst high altitude clouds. Some additional light snowfall is anticipated during the course of the day particularly from the southern Dolomites to the Carnic Alps, accompanied by diminishing visibility. In the direction of the Brenner and Reschen, there will be more sunshine. The brisk easterly winds will subjectively intensify the cold. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 20 to minus 15 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 20 to minus 18 degrees. Brisk easterly winds.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change, ongoing caution urged towards fresh snowdrift accumulations

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe