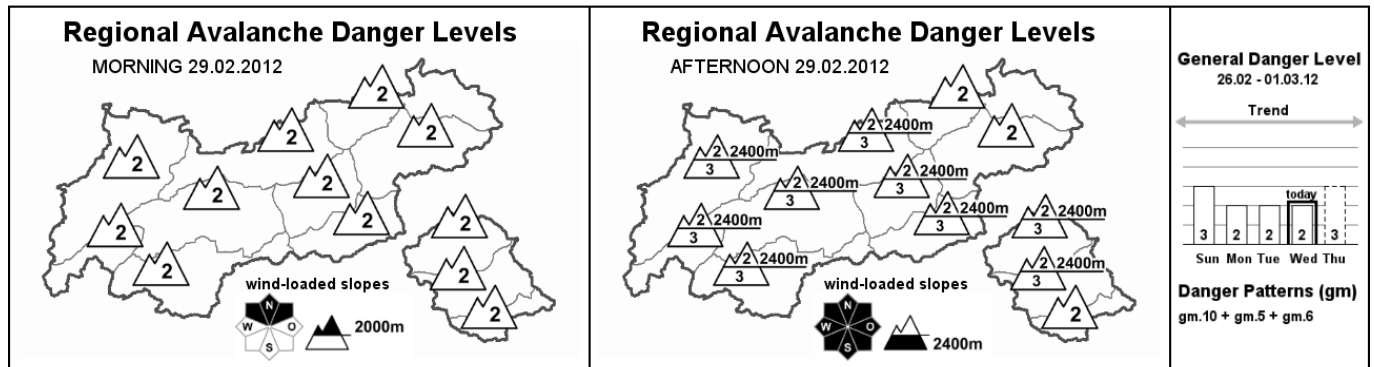


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 29.02.2012, at 07:30



## Daytime rise in avalanche danger - Increasingly frequent wet, loose avalanches

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is becoming increasingly subject to a daytime warming cycle. During the morning, generally favourable conditions prevail, amidst predominantly moderate avalanche danger. Avalanche prone locations for backcountry skiing and freeriding tours are to be found primarily on very steep, shady slopes between the treeline and about 2400 m, where slab avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading in particular. In very steep, high alpine ridgeline areas, in addition, particularly in eastern to southern to western aspects, caution is urged towards the small sized snowdrift accumulations. As of about midday, the peril below about 2400 m escalates to considerable due to the anticipated solar radiation and the rise in temperatures. As of that point, increasingly frequent wet, loosely-packed avalanches can be expected in extremely steep, sunny terrain. In the Lower Inn Valley, there may be lesser daytime warming to start with, due to cloud, but the diffuse solar radiation will slow the process down only slightly. Full depth snowslides can still be released on steep, grassy slopes. As the snowpack becomes more and more moist, they become more and more likely.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is well structured, by and large. However, stability analyses demonstrate that the faceted snow layer in shady terrain between the treeline and about 2400 m, which formed during the extended cold wave, is still not adequately bonded with the snow masses deposited atop of it. This is especially the case in wind protected terrain. Elsewhere, the fresh snowdrift in high alpine ridgeline areas can be disturbed at the borderline point where it meets the loosely packed new fallen snow which is compressed by the wind. The snow quality is very good on shady slopes and in higher, not especially steep terrain. There is often powder snow in those areas. On steep, sunny slopes, on the other hand, there is often a breakable crust.

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

Weather in general: a high is spreading over the Alps, bringing Tyrol mild air masses. This will persist until Saturday, and thereafter, variable conditions are expected from the west. Mountain weather today: west of the Karwendel and Brenner, it will be predominantly sunny, the cloudbanks present in the early hours will disperse. It will be mild. The freezing level will ascend towards 3000 m. The mountains of the Lower Inn Valley and East Tirolean Tauern will still be covered with cloudbanks and fog. The Wilder Kaiser and Kitzbühel Alps in particular are still subject to showers, with the snowfall level rising from low lying areas up to 1500 m. Temperature at 2000 m: zero to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 3 to zero degrees. Particularly in high alpine regions, brisk but weakening northeasterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Classic springtime conditions: favourable during the morning, escalating danger through the day

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe