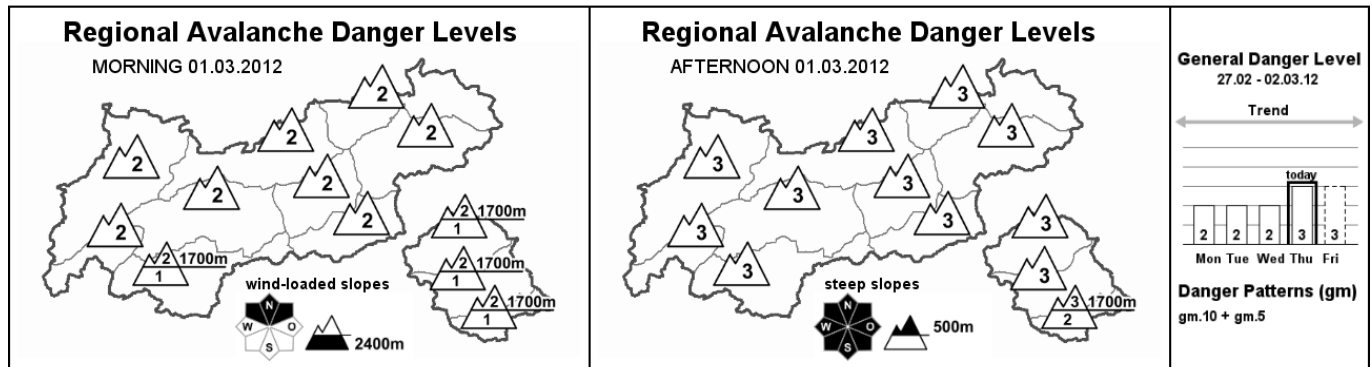


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 01.03.2012, at 07:30



## Daytime increase of avalanche danger - Wet snow avalanches on steep, sunny slopes

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Classic springtime conditions prevail, including a daytime cycle of avalanche danger. During the morning hours, the danger level is generally moderate; where there are fewer grassy slopes and lesser snow depths, i.e. below about 1700 m, the danger level is low. As of late morning, the peril then generally rises to considerable. To begin with, wet, loosely packed snow avalanches are expected in extremely steep, east facing terrain, due to the angle of the sun; later, on south and west facing slopes. Full depth snowslides are also expected with increasing frequency as the snowpack becomes more and more wet. Danger of dry slab avalanches prevails primarily on very steep, shady slopes between the treeline and about 2400 m, where avalanches can be triggered, in the morning by large additional loading in particular, in the afternoon even by minimum additional loading.

### SNOW LAYERING

The decisive factor in the snow layering currently is the degree of wetness caused by the rising temperatures and the diffuse solar radiation, as was the case in some regions yesterday. The snowpack, at least the snow surface, became moist or wet at low and intermediate altitudes and on sunny slopes up to higher altitudes. During the clear nights, the snowpack generally radiates outward without impediment, forming a melt freeze crust which is often capable of bearing loads, and on shady slopes a breakable crust. In high alpine regions, on the other hand, there is still powder snow. A potential bed surface for slab avalanches is a loosely packed, faceted layer which formed during the long cold wave in February. It is to be found primarily on very steep, relatively wind protected shady slopes between the treeline and about 2400 m.

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

Weather in general: A high pressure system extends from western Europe over the Alps and is bringing mild air masses to Tirol. On Saturday, this system will weaken; on Sunday, a weather perturbation coming from the northwest will replace it. Thereafter, it will turn colder. Mountain weather today: A splendid day in the mountains awaits, including springlike conditions, sunshine all day long and mild temperatures. The freezing level will ascend to over 3000 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 3 to plus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 2 to plus 2 degrees and rising. Moderate northeasterly winds to start with, generally easing to light strength over the course of the day.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing springlike conditions, including a daytime escalation of danger

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe