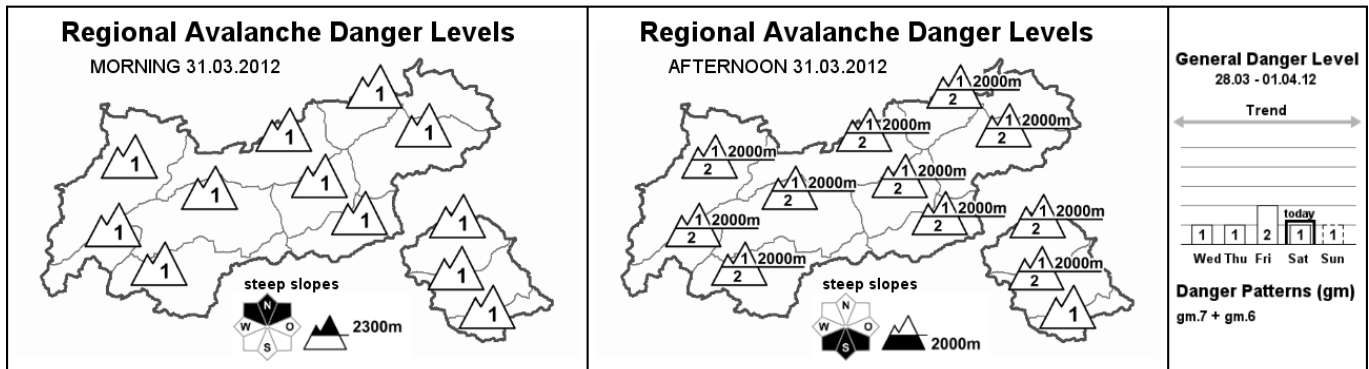


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 31.03.2012, at 07:30



## Very favourable conditions, slight daytime rise in avalanche danger

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Very good conditions prevail for backcountry touring. The avalanche danger level is low in the morning, then rises to moderate in early afternoon under about 2000 m. Avalanche prone locations are rare today: in extremely steep, sunny terrain, backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger small sluffs wherever the melt-freeze crust has softened up sufficiently. In isolated cases, full depth snowslides can release on steep, grassy slopes. In high alpine regions, i.e. above 3000 m, small snowdrift accumulations have formed which are easy to recognize and difficult to trigger. The most likely avalanche prone locations are on very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2300 m where the snow is shallow and there has been little traffic, where large additional loading could trigger a slab avalanche.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack consolidated extremely well last night, at low and intermediate altitudes and on very steep, sun-drenched slopes there is generally a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads. Two exceptions are in high alpine regions; and at low altitudes in the eastern Lower Inn Valley, where the nocturnal outgoing radiation was reduced because of cloudy nighttime skies. In general, the snowpack is quite stable, there are next to no markedly weak layers evident which could trigger a slab avalanche. In isolated cases, in very steep, shady terrain where the snow is shallow there is a layer of depth hoar near the ground. Fresh snowdrift has bonded quite well with the old snowpack surface. In high alpine regions on shady slopes, this snowdrift has been deposited atop powder snow, so could be somewhat trigger sensitive. The small patches of surface hoar which formed (through the Nigg effect) in shady ridgeline areas has probably been destroyed by strong winds, which means this can no longer provide a bed surface for avalanches.

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

Weather in general: Between a high over the Atlantic and a low over the Baltic Sea a northwesterly air current is moving towards Tirol. A quickly moving cold front embedded in it will reach Tirol on Saturday night. Mountain weather today: Good weather conditions for winter sports, lots of sunshine, though between the Kaiser and Steinberge ranges it will turn cloudy this afternoon, with variable visibility. Towards evening, fog will move in across the northern Limestone Alps and tonight a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated. Temperature at 2000 m: zero to plus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds; at high altitudes and along the Northern Alps, winds will be stronger.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Wind and a bit of snowfall will increase avalanche danger only slightly

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe