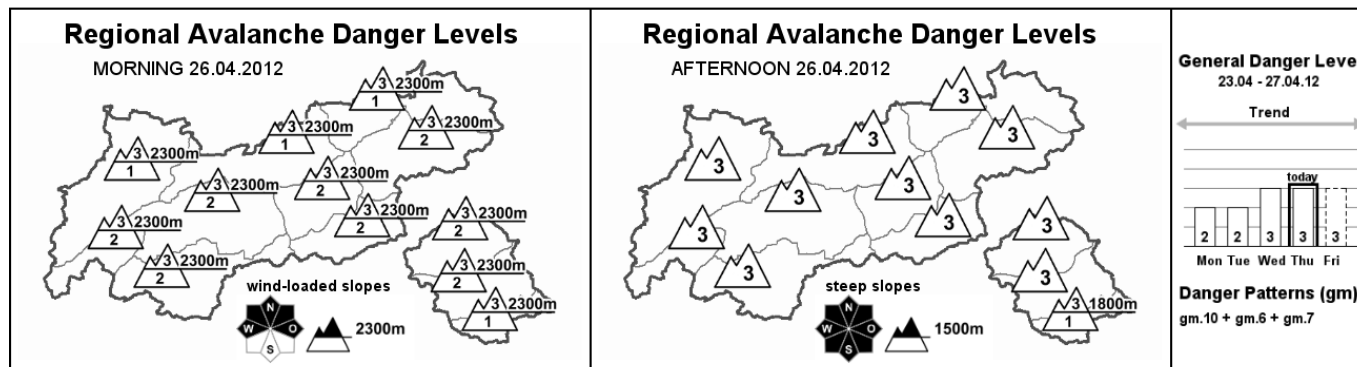


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 26.04.2012, at 07:30



**Caution: snowdrift and significantly escalating avalanche danger during the day**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level is contingent both on the time of day and on the altitude. In early morning, considerable danger prevails in most regions above approximately 2300 m, below that altitude it will briefly be moderate in southern regions, low in northern regions. The major peril initially stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2300 m near ridgelines in very steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing terrain. Above approximately 2600 m, in addition, these hazards also exist in very steep gullies and bowls in all aspects. As the temperatures rise quickly and markedly, the avalanche danger level will do so as well. Then, increasingly frequent naturally triggered avalanches are expected. Most will come from the freshly formed snowdrift masses in very steep terrain, but in isolated cases in high alpine regions, the snowpack can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers. On sunny slopes, moist snowslides and avalanches are expected during the course of the day. In the well known foehn wind lanes, the moistening process will be slowed down by the wind. Naturally triggered wet snow avalanches less unlikely in wind-exposed regions

### SNOW LAYERING

Pronounced, wind-created 'snow flags' dotted the peaks throughout Tirol yesterday. The southerly winds which were very strong in some places gave rise to massive new snowdrift accumulations which are particularly trigger sensitive at the borderline where they meet the loosely packed, cold, new fallen snow above approximately 2300 m. With ascending altitude, both the likelihood of avalanches triggering and the spread of the danger zones tend to increase. During the course of the day, the snowpack will swiftly become wet, and thereby, weaker. Marked weak layers inside the snowpack can most easily be found on shady slopes where the snow is relatively shallow above approximately 2300 m, as well as in high alpine regions, where a layer of depth hoar from early winter lurks near the ground. Yesterday's artificially triggered avalanches on glaciers were able to disturb that layer.

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

Weather in general: A pronounced low pressure sleeve extends from the northern Atlantic over the British Isles to the Canary Islands, at the forefront of which sub-tropical, dry, warm air masses are flowing from the southwest towards Tirol. A strong foehn situation has built up which will persist until Sunday evening. Mountain weather today: strong to stormy winds, sunshine and rising temperatures will eat away at the recently fallen snow. The zero-degree level will be at about 3400 m. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: plus 2 degrees. Strong to stormy southwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Typical springtime conditions will continue, including significant daytime rise in avalanche danger

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe