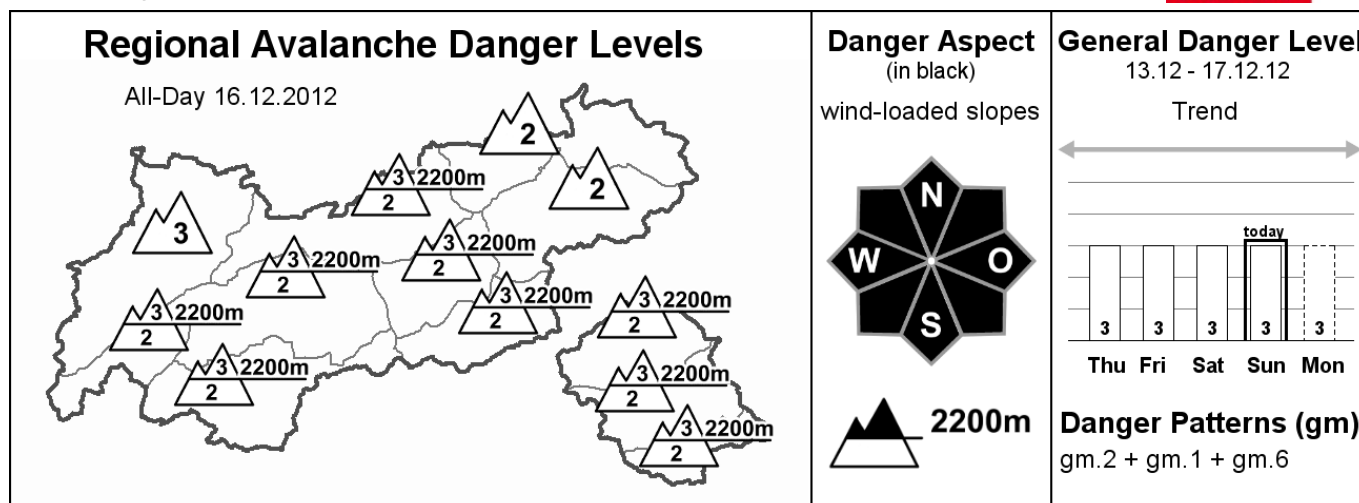


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 16.12.2012, at 07:30



**Full depth snowslides where snow is deep - Beware snow drift above approximately 2200 m**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is generally contingent on altitude. In many places the danger level above approximately 2200 m is considerable; below that altitude it is moderate; where snow is shallow beneath the tree line it is low. There are three aspects to the peril: On the one hand, caution towards snowslides is imperative at low and intermediate altitudes on steep, grass covered slopes, due to the increasing wetness of the snow cover. Special attentiveness is necessary wherever glide cracks and fissures have opened in the snowpack surface. Furthermore, slab avalanches above approximately 2200 m on west to north to east facing slopes are possible in the old snow cover even with minimum additional loading. This applies to the regions of Silvretta-Samnaun, the southern half of the Arlberg-Ausserfern region, the Ötztal and Stubai Alps, the Tux and Zillertal Alps and East Tirol. And lastly, caution towards the freshly drifted snow masses, above approximately 2200 m in all aspects, but especially in northwestern to northern to southern aspects, is called for.

### SNOW LAYERING

Rainfall in northern regions temporarily extending up to about 2500 m, generally to about 1400 m, has made the snow cover thoroughly wet, settled or melted the snowpack. Yesterday's storm strength southerly winds, which today will be westerly, led to wide ranging transport of new snow necessitating caution especially above 2200 m. The likelihood of these masses triggering tends to increase with ascending altitude. In the old snowpack, particularly in the above-mentioned regions over about 2200 m in western to northern to eastern aspects, are trigger sensitive, thin and weak layers composed of faceted crystals and depth hoar with adjacent rain crusts. The weak layer is widespread and quite extensive in size.

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

Mountain weather today: The heaviest cloud cover and likeliest snow showers will be in the mountain ranges near Vorarlberg and Bavaria. In inneralpine regions of the Ötztal Alps eastwards, conditions will be variable, with alternating cloud and bright spells and few showers. On the southern flank of the Alps, quite sunny with intermittent cloudiness. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Moderate westerly winds, along the Northern Limestone Alps at high altitudes winds will be strong. General weather: Mild air masses are being supplied to the Alps by a brisk westerly airstream, accompanied by intermittent shower activity, somewhat weaker in inneralpine regions.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will subside only slowly.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe