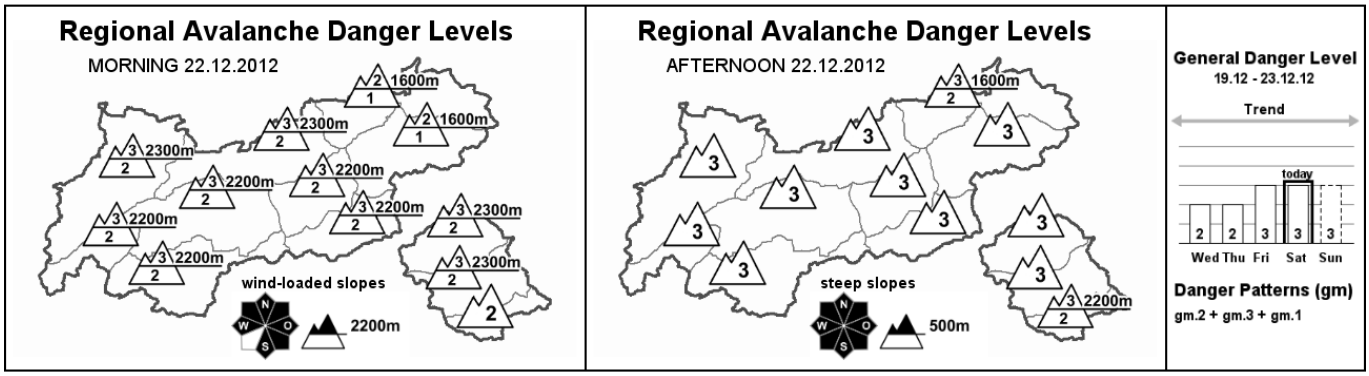
# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

## Saturday, 22.12.2012, at 07:30




## Increased avalanche danger due to rising temperatures, rainfall and wind

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is contingent on altitude and is expected to increase over the course of the day. The situation is least favourable in the regions south of a line drawn from Ausserfern over the Northern to the Kitzbühel Alps above approximately 2200 m, where considerable danger prevails by and large; below that altitude the danger level is moderate, but expected to increase significantly during the day. Avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2200 m on west to north to east facing slopes, where slab avalanches attaining medium size could fracture in the old snowpack even from minimum additional loading. The snowfall and rising temperatures even make naturally triggered avalanches in this sector possible. Above approximately 2800 m, the likelihood that the old snow cover will trigger recedes. In Ausserfern and the western sector of the Northern Alps, the borderline between considerable and moderate avalanche danger is at about 2300 m. Throughout Tirol, the snow drift accumulations in particular require caution. They can frequently be triggered above approximately 2300 m in very steep terrain behind crested rims. The probability of release tends to increase with ascending altitude, as does the frequency of such drifted masses, due to intensifying winds. In addition, throughout Tirol in those zones which have had the heaviest snowfall and are now influenced by rain, increasingly frequent full depth snowslides and wet, loosely packed avalanches can be expected!

### SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover is becoming thoroughly wet at low and intermediate altitudes as a result of the rain and the rising temperatures. At higher altitudes, the snow will be intensely transported during the day by the ever stronger winds. Fresh snow drift in particular can be released, especially at the point of deposit, i.e. the borderline to the still loosely packed, cold fresh fallen snow from recent days. Most critical of all is a weak layer in the regions south of the line from Ausserfern over the Northern to the Kitzbühel Alps above approximately 2200 m on west to north to east facing slopes. Inside the snowpack near rain and melt-freeze crusts, there are depth hoar and faceted snow crystals. That makes fracture propagation over large surfaces possible.

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

Mountain weather today: The peaks are shrouded in fog and cloud, the showers will slacken off by midday (snow as of 1000 m), but visibility will not improve much, since the next cloudbanks are already moving in at higher altitudes. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Moderate velocity northwesterly winds at high altitude, shifting to westerly, becoming brisker as evening approaches.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Treacherous conditions in some areas of those regions with the deepest snow

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