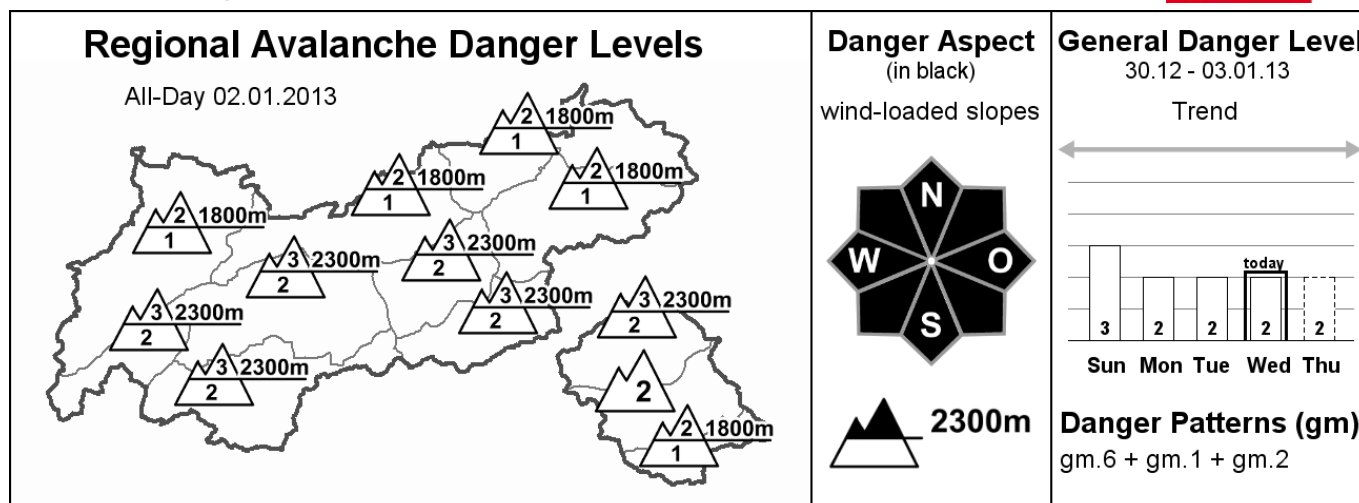


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 02.01.2013, at 07:30



**Beware fresh snowdrift - Ongoing caution urged on very steep, shady slopes above 2300 m**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger above approximately 2300 m is considerable from region to region. In most regions the danger is moderate, below the tree line it is low in general. Highest caution is still required on very steep, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes above approximately 2300 m. These are most frequently found in the regions south of a line drawn from Ausserfern over the Northern to the Kitzbühel Alps. In those regions avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, especially in spots where the snow is shallow, and attain medium size. In Ausserfern and the western part of the Northern Alps, isolated avalanches are possible above approximately 2500 m on north facing slopes in very steep terrain. Elsewhere, caution is urged throughout Tirol towards the fresh, small sized snowdrift accumulations which are found in steep areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects and behind crested rims in the terrain: even minimum additional loading is sufficient to release a slab avalanche.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snow cover at low and intermediate altitudes has settled well and is low in tensions. Above approximately 2300 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes there are weak layers near the ground consisting of loosely packed snow crystals which in some places have been blanketed over by rain or melt-freeze crusts, in high alpine regions also by wind crusts. The bonding between these layers is gradually improving, but is still inadequate in many places, making the snowpack prone to triggering. In northwestern regions above approximately 2500 m on shady slopes there is now depth hoar inside the snowpack; the snow is deeper there, making it less likely for skiers to trigger it. Fresh snow drift masses can, however, release at the point of contact to the loosely packed new fallen snow.

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

Mountain weather today: At higher altitudes, visibility will be impaired by fog and snow showers bringing about 5 cm of fresh fallen snow. In the western sector of the Main Alpine Ridge between the Samnaun and Stubai Alps, only slight precipitation, with increasing bright spells appearing as of midday. Between the Ortler and the Dolomites there may also be light snow showers before bright intervals also appear there from the west. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 5 to minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 to minus 14 degrees. Moderate velocity northwesterly winds. Weather in general: A cold front is passing through the Alps. In the coming days an unstable northwesterly air current will form which will be subjected to a high pressure system as of the weekend.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in avalanche danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe