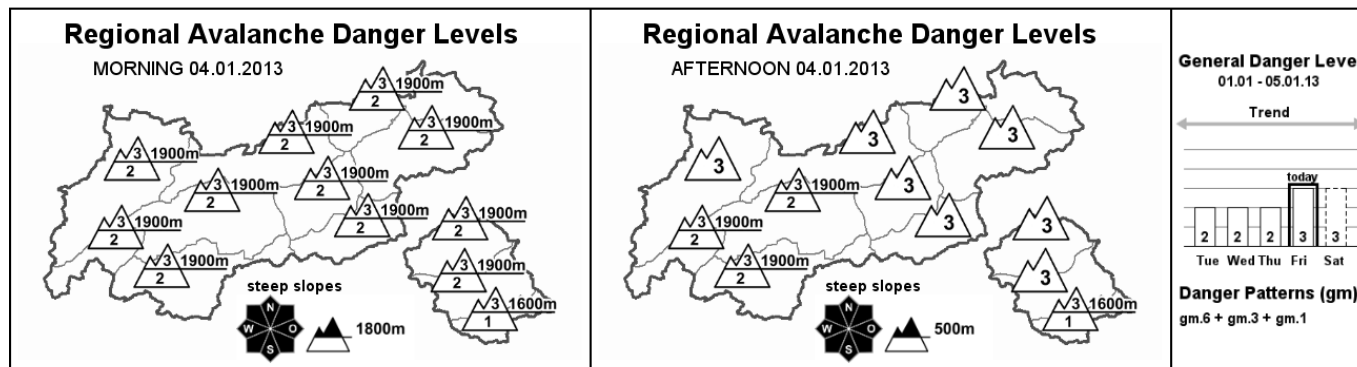


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 04.01.2013, at 07:30



## Sharply rising avalanche danger in eastern regions - Beware fresh snowdrift!

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in northern and eastern regions has already reached the danger level considerable in many places due to precipitation and strong winds. Below the tree line, the danger is mostly moderate; in zones with shallow snow it is low in isolated cases. Over the course of the day, a further increase in danger at low and intermediate altitudes is anticipated. The major peril today stems from freshly formed snow drift accumulations which are, as observed yesterday, brittle, making them prone to triggering even by minimum additional loading above the tree line. This trigger sensitivity tends to increase with ascending altitude. In eastern regions, naturally triggered avalanches which can reach medium size can release in extremely steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, probably during the night. In the Zillertal and East Tirolean Tauern in shady, very steep terrain above approximately 2300 m, in addition, naturally triggered, usually small to medium sized avalanches are also expected, most likely during the night. Full depth snowslides are expected more frequently in the areas impacted by rain. Winter sports lovers should consequently avoid the fresh snow drift in steep terrain today, as well as steep, shady terrain above 2300 m.

### SNOW LAYERING

Excluding southern East Tirol, it is currently raining up to about 1800 m. The precipitation is intensifying, along with the wind. This applies particularly to the eastern regions of Tirol. The snow cover there is generally well structured, but above the tree line, loosely packed, cold new fallen snow is to be found frequently on the surface which can slide off the freshly formed snow drift accumulations. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the northern Ötztal, Stubai and Tux Alps there is weak, poorly bonded, trigger sensitive snow layering above about 2300 m on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes. Also in central East Tirol, the loosely packed old snow cover above the tree line on shady slopes could easily serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches.

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

Weather in general: Wedged between a powerful high over the Iberian peninsula and a low over northeastern Europe, the Alps are caught in a strong, relatively moist northwesterly air current. The southern flank of the Alps has far better weather conditions. Mountain weather today: an inhospitable day in the Northern and Central Alps, much impaired visibility through fog and cloud. In inneralpine valleys and towards the Upper Inn Valley, skies are somewhat brighter under the influence of the northerly wind. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Brisk to strong velocity westerly to northwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

For a short interim, a treacherous situation for tours, especially in wind-exposed areas and in eastern regions

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe