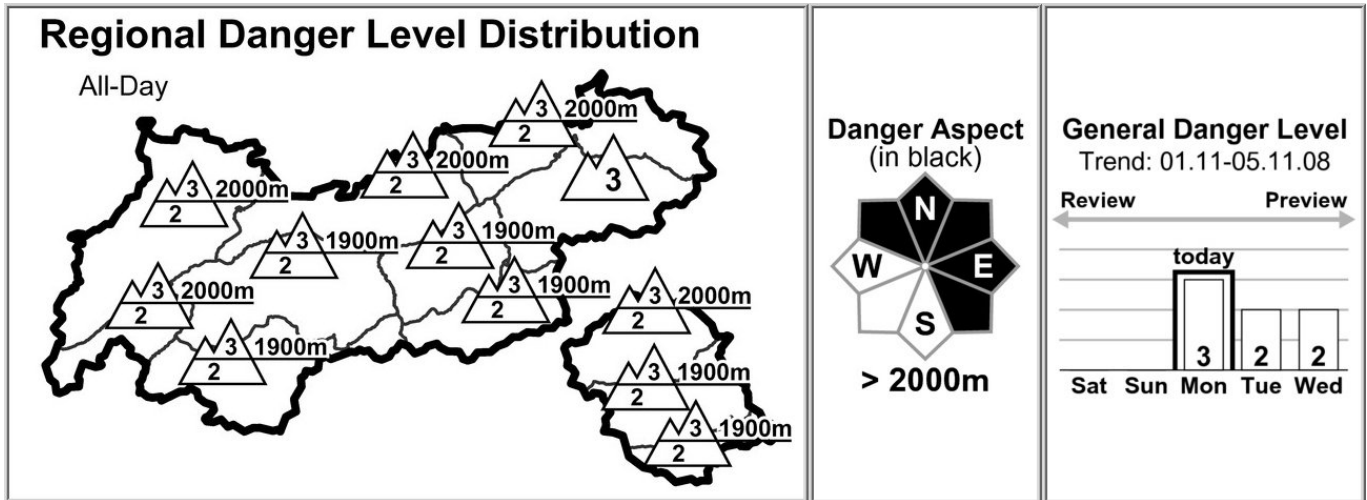


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 03.11.2008, at 09:30



## LOOSE POWDER SNOW COVERS OVER AVALANCHE PRONE LOCATIONS, MAKING THEM DIFFICULT TO RECOGNIZE!

### AVALANCHE DANGER

On the one hand, the avalanche danger is gradually subsiding, but it still remains contingent on the altitude. Widespread above approximately 2000 m it is considerable. Below that altitude there is generally moderate danger. In the Stubai, Ötztal, Tux and Zillertal Alps, as well as in central East Tyrol and the East Tyrol Dolomites, the treeline is that altitude border. In those regions, on northwest to north to east facing extremely steep slopes, which rest on a loosely packed snow fundament, avalanches can be triggered by minimum additional loading. Increasingly, this is the case for the zone up to about 2400 m, above that altitude it applies particularly to wind-protected bowls. Elsewhere, recently formed snowdrift accumulations are the major hazard for backcountry skiers and freeriders in Tyrol's mountains. The likelihood of avalanches being triggered increases with increasing altitude. Above the treeline they are especially likely in northwest to north to southeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines, above approximately 2300 m on south facing slopes as well. A loose powdery snow cover makes it very difficult to spot the danger zones, making both caution and prudent route planning imperative in very steep terrain. The situation in areas which are continually used by backcountry skiers and freeriders is more favourable.

### SNOW LAYERING

Solar radiation and mild temperatures, particularly at medium altitudes, have led to a noticeable consolidation of the snowpack, thereby stabilizing the recently formed snowdrift accumulations. At higher altitudes, however, the extremely dry air masses have impeded this process. The melt-freeze crust can often serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches, at higher altitudes the wind crust to which the snowdrift is often poorly bonded is a potential bed surface. Human triggered avalanches via explosives of recent days have corroborated this assessment. In regions east of the Silvretta and south of the Inn River, not including the Kitzbühel Alps, as well as in southern East Tyrol, a layer of depth hoar is increasingly evident near the ground, which remains prone to triggering.

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

Marvellous conditions for winter sports, as well as for sunbathing: blue skies and mild temperatures for the season are the major components of this situation. Nonetheless, the wind can be bothersome in exposed areas. Temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 3 to +1 degrees, at 3000 m minus 7 to minus 4 degrees. Light easterly winds will prevail, at high altitudes they will be of moderate strength.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger will gradually recede.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe