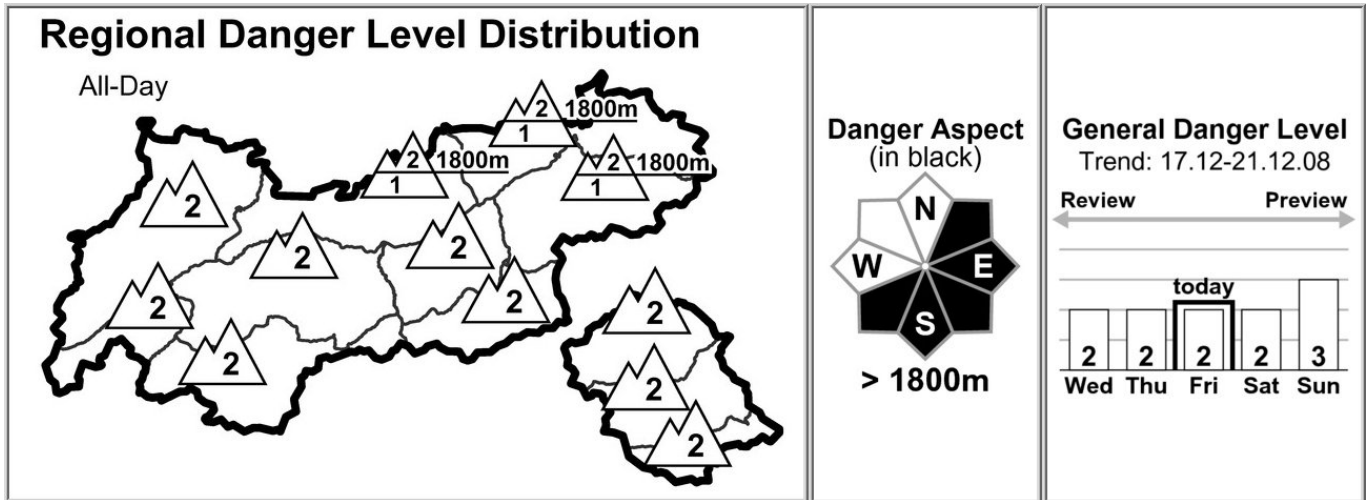


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 19.12.2008, at 07:30



## FULL DEPTH SNOWSLIDES IN SOUTHERN REGIONS. BEWARE FRESH SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS.

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is moderate widespread. Below the treeline in northern regions, the danger is low. The greatest danger, comparatively speaking, still stems from full depth snowslides in East Tyrol and in the southern Ötztal, Stubai and Zillertal Alps. Such avalanches can still place exposed parts of transportation routes at risk. As human triggering experiments demonstrated yesterday in southern East Tyrol, however, avalanches cannot be unleashed by explosives. The snowfall has led to increasingly frequent snowdrift accumulations at high altitudes on east to south to southwest facing slopes. Thus, caution should be exercised towards areas adjacent to ridge lines and very steep slopes in all aspects. In isolated cases, such snowdrift can even be triggered by minimum additional loading, although greater additional loading is required in general. The avalanches are usually small sized, and are triggered primarily in transition areas from little to lots of snow. The new snow makes assessment of the hazards more difficult, since the older snowdrift accumulations are harder to localize.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been between 5 and 25 cm of new snow, most of it in the Zillertal and Tux Alps. Winds have shifted to northerly, by and large. Above the treeline, new snowdrift accumulations are forming, increasingly on south facing slopes. Their bonding with the old snowpack is quite good, but becomes poorer with increasing altitude. A weak layer in the snowpack which could serve as bed surfaces is to be found near the surface from the recent snowfall. In high alpine regions there is a layer of depth hoar embedded deep down in the snowpack from early winter, which however is covered by wind crusts and large snow masses in places.

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

The visibility is poor, due to clouds and fog. Snowfall from the northern Alps moving towards the Main Alpine Ridge is expected this morning, which will become heavier in the afternoon. By tonight, 5 to 20 cm of new snow is expected. South of the Vinschgau - Lienz line it will remain dry; between the Ortler and the Dolomites there will even be intermittent sunshine. Moderate northwesterly winds, at high altitudes increasing to strong. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to minus 4 degrees, and dropping lower during the night; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees, towards evening dropping towards minus 15 degrees.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Snowfall combined with wind influence will increase the avalanche danger.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe