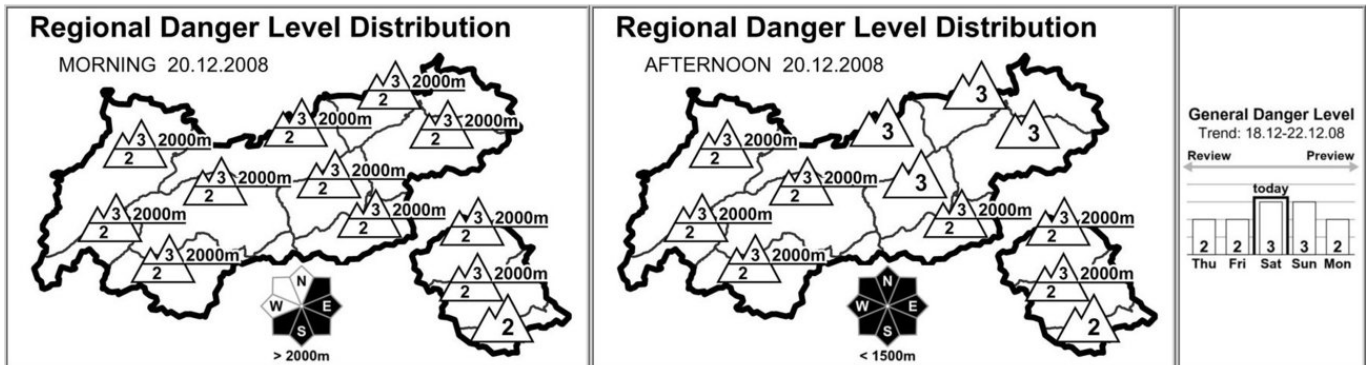


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 20.12.2008, at 07:30



## BEWARE FRESHLY FORMED SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS! FULL DEPTH SNOWSLIDES STILL POSSIBLE IN SOUTH!

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has escalated slightly. Below about 2000 m, moderate danger prevails widespread. Above that altitude, it is considerable in places. The major hazard for backcountry skiers and freeriders stems (again) from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are to be found primarily above the treeline, increasingly frequently adjacent to ridge lines on northeast to southeast to southwest facing slopes and beneath rocky edges. On very steep slopes, even minimal additional loading can trigger small slab avalanches. Depending on altitude, caution must also be exercised towards an escalation in avalanche danger today in rain-influenced regions of the Lower Inn Valley: increasingly frequent snowslides on steep, grassy slopes are possible. Even in southern regions with lots of snow, full depth snowslides are still a danger.

### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, it has snowed once again. Widespread there was only 5 to 25 cm, in southern East Tyrol just a touch, of new snow. In high alpine regions, increasingly strong northwesterly winds came up, which in turn have intensively transported the snow. Below about 2000 m, these snowdrift masses are generally well bonded with the old snowpack. However, with increasing altitude their bonding becomes weaker and weaker. Older snowdrift masses from the beginning of the week are now settled sufficiently that backcountry skiers will seldom disturb them. In Ausserfern, a thin ice layer has formed up to just under 1800 m which in some places could increase the trigger sensitivity. The influence of rain can greatly weaken the snowpack in lower lying areas.

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

A warm front from the northwest will bring more new snow to Tyrol's mountains over the weekend, in lower lying areas, rain. On Monday, the weather conditions will improve. Over the Christmas holidays, colder air from the northeast is expected, amid overcast conditions and repeated snowfall, particularly in the northern Alps and in the Zillertal sector of the Main Ridge. In the later part of the day, snowfall is expected to be heavy. In areas below about 800 to 1200 m, there will be rain. Above that altitude, heavy snowfall is anticipated today, in eastern parts of the Lower Inn Valley more than 50 cm. Between the Ortler and the Carnic Alps, it will remain dry and partly sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 to minus 7 degrees and rising. In high alpine regions and in the northern Alps, strong to stormy northwesterly to westerly winds will prevail.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche prone locations are increasing in frequency, due to snowfall and winds.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe