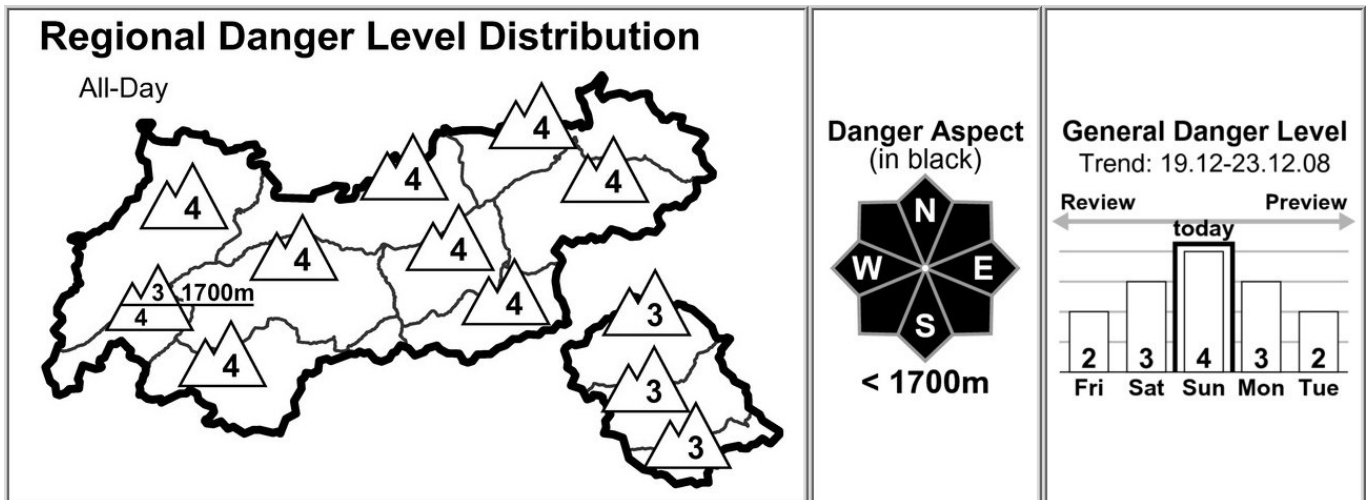


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 21.12.2008, at 07:30



## GENERALLY HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER IN NORTH TYROL DUE TO RAIN AND SNOW

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in North Tyrol is high. Due to the intensive rain which will continue throughout the day today and which can freeze up to 1700 m locally, full depth wet snowslides can be expected on slopes in all aspects. This will occur increasingly frequently on steep, grassy slopes and can place exposed parts of transportation routes at risk. Furthermore, in northeast to southeast to southwest facing starting zones adjacent to ridge lines at higher altitudes, increasingly frequent slab avalanches can unleash themselves naturally. This will occur more frequently in the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions to the northern Alps down to about 2200 m. Thoroughly unfavourable conditions prevail today for backcountry skiers and freeriders, who must have immense experience in assessing avalanche hazards. The situation in East Tyrol is more favourable, where the danger is generally considerable. The major hazard there continues to stem from snow masses being unleashed on steep, grassy slopes, at higher altitudes the triggering of snowdrift accumulations is also a persistent danger.

### SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday's heavy precipitation, which was rain below 1200 m throughout Tyrol, and in far western regions below 1700 m, has exerted an intensively negative impact on the avalanche danger. Through the rain, the snowpack forfeits a large part of its firmness, making it easy for it to trigger itself. From the Arlberg and Ausserfern regions all the way to the northern Alps, furthermore, an ice crust formed yesterday down to about 2200 m in many places in all aspects, which forms an extremely trigger sensitive bed surface. In addition, the freshly formed snowdrift in high alpine regions can be easily unleashed. The bonding of the snowdrift with the new snow worsens with rising altitude, the trigger sensitivity escalates with rising altitude.

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

A warm front from the northwest is supplying Tyrol with rain and the Tyrol's mountains with continued snowfall today. The airstream will shift to north-to-northeast in the next few days and will become drier, at least at high altitudes. On Christmas Eve, it will gradually turn colder. Ongoing severely impeded visibility and deep wintery conditions amid continued snowfall. In low lying areas and to some extent at intermediate altitudes, it will rain. In areas adjacent to ridge lines, strong winds will cause snowdrift accumulations. Towards evening, conditions will calm, starting in the west. Well south of the Main Alpine Ridge it will remain predominantly dry, the region between the Ortler and the Dolomites will have the most sunshine. In high alpine regions, in the eastern part of the Lower Inn Valley and on the southern flank of the Alps, strong to stormy northwesterly winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 7 degrees.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As the precipitation slackens off, the avalanche situation will rapidly improve.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe