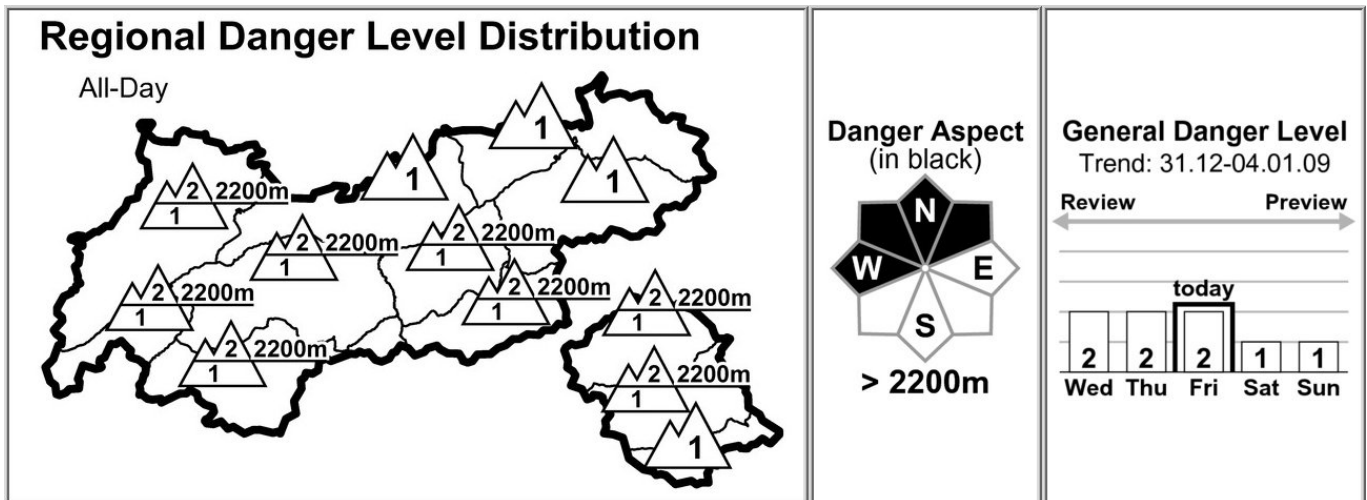


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 02.01.2009, at 07:30



## CONTINUING FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR BACKCOUNTRY TOURING

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is dependent on altitude, in general. Above approximately 2200 m moderate danger prevails, below that altitude low danger. The hazards in the Northern Alps, Kitzbühel Alps and East Tyrolean Dolomites are generally low. Potential avalanche prone locations are to be found on the recently wind loaded steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. The snowdrifts are rather small in breadth and depth and are to be found primarily in areas adjacent to ridge lines and below rocky edges, increasingly frequently on west to north to northeast facing slopes. Apart from these snowdrift accumulations, isolated avalanches can be triggered above approximately 3000 m in extremely steep northwest to north to northeast facing transition areas from little to lots of snow.

### SNOW LAYERING

In some regions along the Main Alpine Ridge it snowed as much as 20 cm in the early afternoon yesterday. Elsewhere there was generally about 5 cm of new snow. The snowpack is by and large quite stable. Potential bed surfaces for avalanches are to be found near the surface in the form of hard melt-freeze crusts or surface hoar. The latter can often be blanketed by small snowdrift accumulations, particularly in shady areas near the treeline. The quality of the snow has declined. At higher altitudes, wind crusts are prevalent, below about 1800 m, in northern regions below about 2200 m, melt-freeze crusts are prevalent, on the lower surface of which a faceted, loosely packed layer has formed, which is not yet a problem for backcountry skiers and freeriders. In high alpine regions, a layer of depth hoar from autumn is embedded in the lowermost part of the snowpack.

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

Today's weather: Tyrol lies at the southeastern edge of a high pressure front with its eye over the North Sea. Over the coming days, colder air masses will flow incrementally from the north. At the same time, northern regions will be brushed by a weak disturbance today. Noteworthy amounts of snowfall are not anticipated in the coming week. Mountain weather today: sunny, but ongoingly cold and wintery conditions in the mountains. The low lying clouds on the northern flank of the Alps which will form in the course of the afternoon will be beneath the altitude of ridges, in general, which may give rise to snow flurries. All around the Main Alpine Ridge and particularly on the southern flank of the Alps, sunshine will dominate the entire day, but cold winds in areas adjacent to ridge lines will be quite unpleasant. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees. Light northwesterly winds, at high altitudes they will be strong.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Backcountry skiers and freeriders can continue to enjoy quite stable conditions.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe