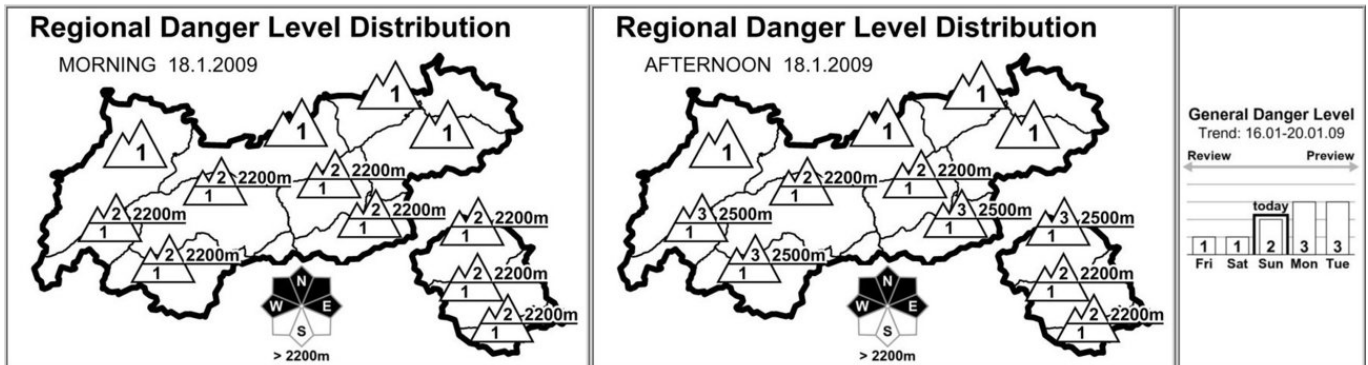


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 18.01.2009, at 07:30



## IN REGIONS EXPOSED TO WINDS, RAPIDLY ESCALATING AVALANCHE DANGER - ELSEWHERE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Still generally favourable conditions. In regions south of the Inn, excluding the Kitzbühel Alps, moderate danger prevails above approximately 2200 m, low danger below 2200 m. The hazards are also still low in the northernmost regions of North Tyrol. Winds transported new fallen snow on Wednesday, which raised the danger level to moderate in the indicated regions. These snowdrift accumulations are currently easy to recognize and not particularly deep or widespread. In areas adjacent to ridge lines in the typical regions subject to foehn wind influence, they are increasingly frequent. Caution is essential, since these drifted snow masses can be unleashed by minimum additional loading in many cases. As the winds become stronger this afternoon, further snow transport can be expected, which will lead to more frequent danger spots. Thus, the danger above 2500 m will increase markedly.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack continues to be very low in tensions. By and large it consists of loosely packed, unbonded crystals. In its uppermost surface layers up to about 2000 m, there are often thin melt-freeze crusts; in narrow, shady valley regions up to the treeline, there is often surface hoar; at higher altitudes there are often wind crusts, which are capable of bearing loads in exposed areas. Beneath these wind-pressed crusts, a layer of depth hoar has formed in places due to the long, cold period of sunny weather. The bonding of the depth hoar to these crusts is quite inadequate, making it possible for backcountry skiers and freeriders to trigger it. In high alpine regions there is a fundament of depth hoar from early winter on north facing slopes.

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

Weather today: air pressure is falling throughout western and central Europe, presaging a transition to a variable western weather front. Following a brief phase of foehn wind influence in North Tyrol, this afternoon/evening a disturbance from the Atlantic will reach Tyrol, bringing both precipitation and stormy winds. Mountain weather today: until late afternoon it will remain dry and initially quite sunny. The southwesterly to westerly winds will increase incrementally in strength in high alpine regions and in areas exposed to foehn influence, while the clouds thicken at the same time. Towards evening, snow showers and fog will rapidly sweep over the land from the west. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 1 to minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 5 to minus 9 degrees. In the northern Alps and in regions subject to foehn, strong southwesterly to westerly winds, which will subsequently attain storm strength.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Following a sustained period of favourable conditions, backcountry skiers and freeriders have to get used to a quite dangerous new situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe