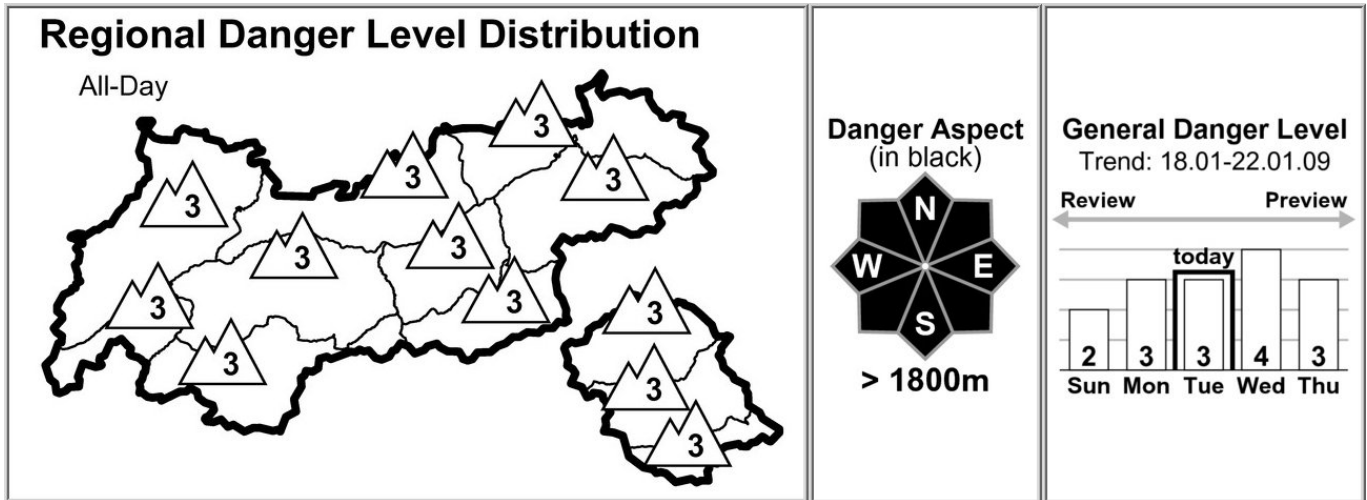


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 20.01.2009, at 13:00



## MORE SNOWFALL THAN EXPECTED IS CREATING A CRITICAL AVALANCHE SITUATION

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol has escalated somewhat since this morning and is now considerable widespread. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes, in areas adjacent to ridge lines and in gullies and bowls in all aspects. Slab avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. In the regions with lots of new snow, i.e. Arlberg/Ausserfern, Silvretta and the northern Alps, the avalanche danger could reach the level "high" if precipitation persists. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs are strongly discouraged.

### SNOW LAYERING

Particularly in the region Arlberg/Ausserfern, the Silvretta and the northern Alps, the snowfall is proving to be much heavier than anticipated, there is already 20 to 25 cm of new snow and the snowfall shows no signs of abating. Thus, the avalanche danger is escalating, natural avalanches have been observed even in low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes. The bonding of the snowdrift accumulations of yesterday and the day before yesterday with the generally loosely packed old snow surface is poor, the fresh snow is providing a further burden upon it so that slab avalanches are often naturally triggered.

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

Weather: the cold front of a low pressure zone over Scotland has reached western Austria. Weather today: in North Tyrol it is generally overcast and rain has begun in the Upper Inn Valley, snowfall over 800 to 1000 m, which will spread to the Lower Inn Valley in the afternoon. In South and East Tyrol there is widespread precipitation which, particularly in southern East Tyrol, will be heavy. The snowfall level will rise towards 1000 m. Mountain weather tomorrow: the high humidity greatly impedes visibility. In addition, there will be snow showers. From Wednesday morning until Thursday morning, 5 to 10 cm of additional snowfall is expected, in the Carnic Alps as much as another 15 cm. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Moderate to strong southerly winds, in the afternoon light northerly winds will prevail. Trend: on Thursday, an intermediate high pressure front will make its influence felt with sunshine. On Saturday afternoon, another disturbance will reach Tyrol, the snowfall level on Saturday evening will be 1000 m, on Sunday it will snow down to low lying areas.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The tense avalanche situation is expected to persist.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe