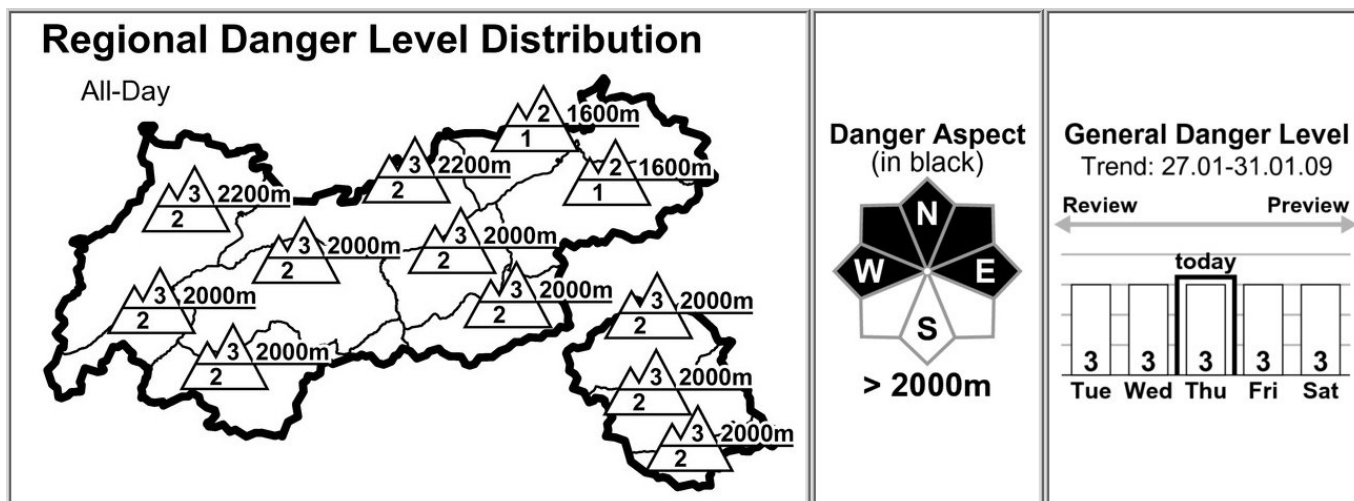


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 29.01.2009, at 07:30



## AVALANCHE DANGER CONTINUES TO RECEDE BUT SLOWLY

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent upon altitude: above approximately 2000 m it is generally considerable, below 2000 m it is moderate widespread. In the northern regions of North Tyrol, particularly in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and the Kitzbühel Alps, the situation is better: below about 1600 m the danger is low, above 1600 m it is moderate. Most hazardous currently are wind protected, evenly structured, very steep southwest to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. Equally, the snowpack in sparsely vegetated, very steep forest zones near the treeline on west to north to east facing slopes can be disturbed by minimum additional loading. Increasing caution is also urged in areas adjacent to ridge lines: on the one hand, snowdrift accumulations from last Friday are to be found in these areas, and on the other, new, small sized snowdrift masses have formed over the last two days there. The situation on well frequented backcountry touring routes as well as in regularly used freeriding terrain continues to be far more favourable.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is settling and consolidating apace. Most of last week's avalanches were caused by the loosely packed layer of faceted crystals which formed in the long period of very cold weather before 19 January. Up to about 2200 m a variety of thin melt-freeze crusts have such a loosely packed layer which is now covered over by the new snow from last week. Settling, "whumpfung" sounds in little used terrain and snowpack analysis have demonstrated that the bonding of old to new snow is still inadequate in many places. The snowpack on very steep, sun-bathed slopes is better, since melt-freeze crusts which have a stabilising influence are embedded in the snowpack there.

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

Weather: Over northern Europe is a high pressure zone which will reach Tyrol today and attain its highest impact on Friday and Saturday. As of Sunday, foehn influence will again be felt in North Tyrol. At the beginning of next week, another Mediterranean low pressure front is expected to bring new snow to the southern flank of the Alps. Mountain weather today: In the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge and on the Arlberg, as well as in South Tyrol's mountains, there will soon be sunshine, the feathery high altitude clouds will disperse. From the Karwendel to the Kaiser and in the Hohe Tauern, the peaks will be veiled in clouds somewhat longer, but by the afternoon the sun should reach them as well. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 to minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 11 to minus 8 degrees. Moderate northeasterly to easterly winds will slacken off during the afternoon.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger continues to be contingent on altitude, with considerable danger in general above approximately 2200 m.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe