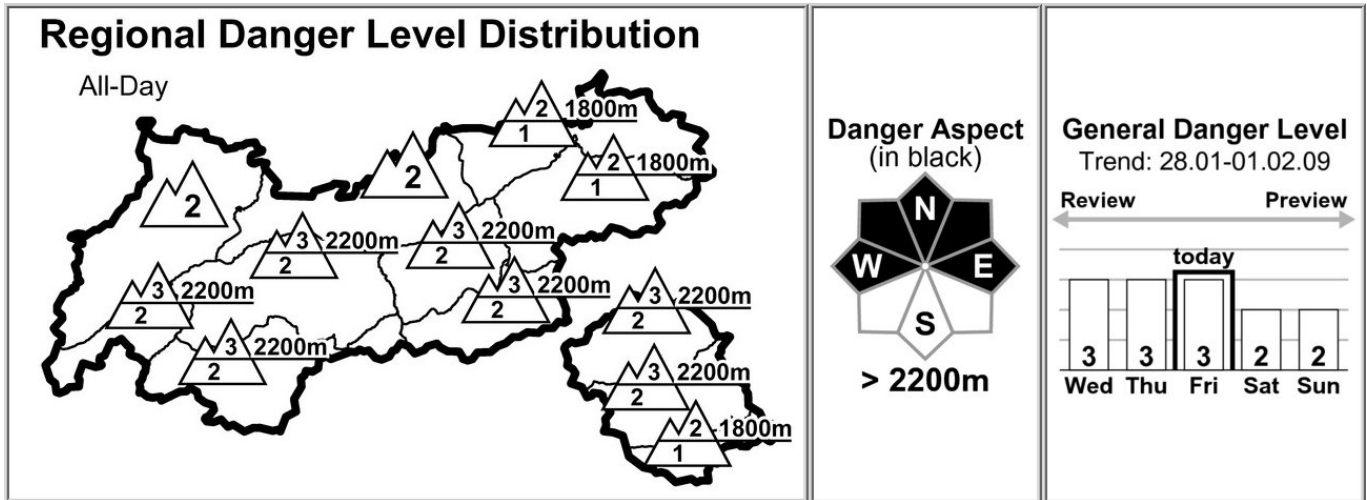


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 30.01.2009, at 07:30



## AVALANCHE DANGER STILL CONSIDERABLE IN PLACES ABOVE 2200 M

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger is gradually diminishing. In the regions of the Silvretta over the Ötztal and Stubai, Zillertal and Tux Alps as well as in the northern part of East Tyrol, considerable danger still prevails above approximately 2200 m. Below 2200 m, the danger is moderate. The conditions in the northern regions of North Tyrol and southern regions of East Tyrol are predominantly moderate, in some places low. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and below rocky scarps, where there are still massive snowdrift accumulations from last week, these are in turn blanketed over by a loosely packed layer of new snow, making them difficult to recognize in places. In these places, even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. Routes and slopes little used are generally far more hazardous than those which are well frequented. Caution is also urged towards the recently formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations adjacent to ridge lines on south facing slopes.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is gradually losing its internal tension. Nonetheless, the weak layer which formed during the long period of low temperatures before 19 January can still serve as a bed surface for slab avalanches in some places, particularly above 2200 m, where snow analysis has shown that the bonding of loosely packed, faceted snow crystals with snowdrift masses is still far from adequate. At lower altitudes the snowpack is now generally quite stable, primarily because the new snow atop this weak layer is itself loosely packed.

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

A high pressure zone centered over Scandinavia will dominate the weather in Tyrol for a short spell. Then, as of Sunday, a small low pressure front over the western Mediterranean will supply humid air masses to the southern flank of the Alps. Today, excellent and sunny conditions for backcountry skiers and freeriders: the ski areas are above the fogbanks and will enjoy unimpeded visibility. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Light easterly winds, in the northernmost Alps the winds will be of moderate strength.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The avalanche danger is receding incrementally, which will lower the danger widespread to moderate, in lower lying areas to low.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe