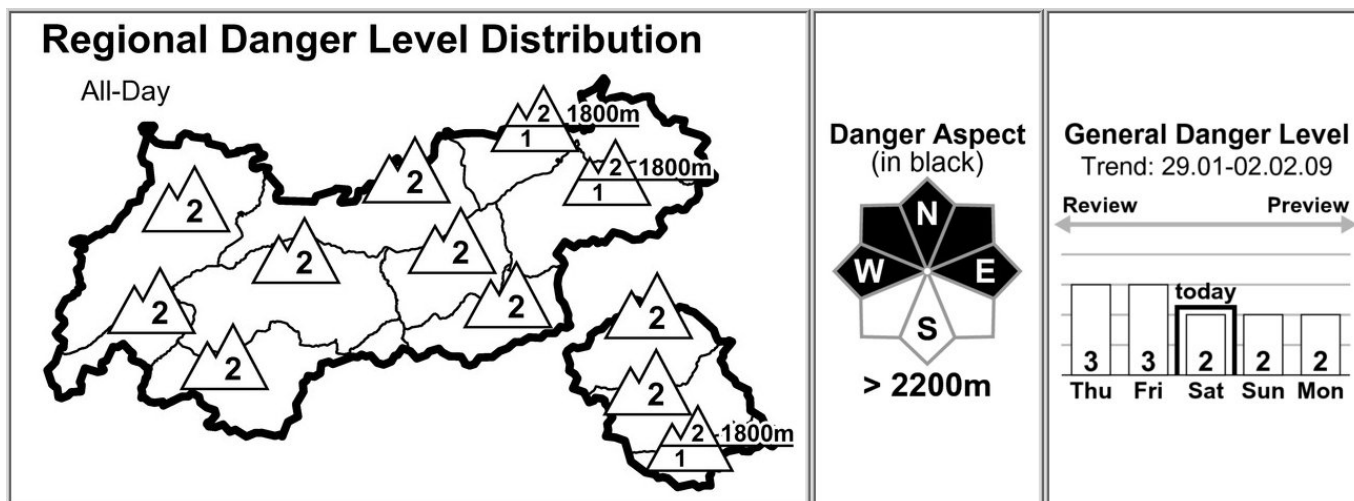


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 31.01.2009, at 07:30



## MODERATE DANGER: CAUTION STILL URGED IN VERY STEEP RIDGE LINE AREAS

### AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, generally moderate danger prevails; below about 1800 m, the hazards are low in places. Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in very steep, west to north to east facing areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2200 m, where slab avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading, in transition areas from areas with little to areas with lots of snow by minimum additional loading. Infrequently used routes and slopes which are shady, very steep and covered with lots of new snow also require increasing caution; in these places, isolated slab avalanches can also be triggered by minimum additional loading.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowfall from 14 and 20 January is becoming increasingly faceted. That means the snowpack is becoming more and more loosely packed on the surface, forfeiting its tensions. In steep areas adjacent to ridge lines and in areas with lots of new snow there is still a thicker, consolidated snowpack deposited atop a layer of loosely packed, faceted snow crystals which formed during the long period of cold weather. Snow analysis demonstrates, however, that the bonding with the snowpack lying atop it has been improving day by day. The snowpack on very steep, sun-bathed slopes is better, since several stabilising melt freeze crusts have formed in it.

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

Weather today: the high pressure zone dominating today's weather extends from Scandinavia to Italy. Between this high and a low pressure front centered over Portugal, a high altitude southerly air current is wedged. Mountain weather today: the skies will be cloudless in many places, guaranteeing outstanding visibility and setting the scene for unimpeded winter sports activities. The wind will be no major disturbance. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Moderate avalanche danger generally continues.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe