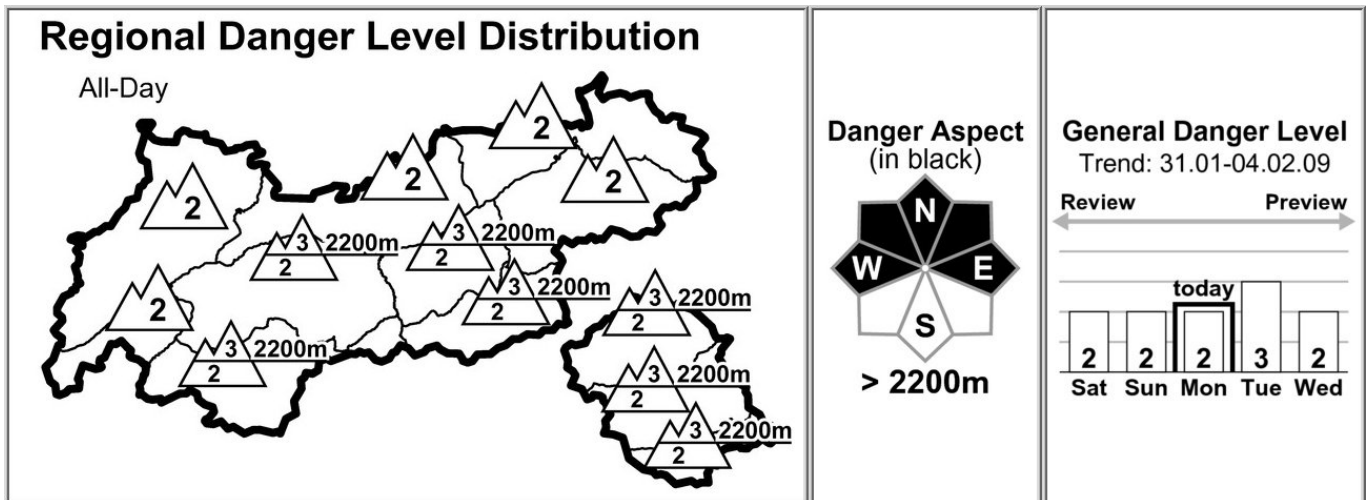


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 02.02.2009, at 07:30



## ESCALATING AVALANCHE DANGER IN HIGH ALPINE REGIONS, AMID STORMY FOEHN WINDS

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's touring regions is still Moderate, generally speaking, but is rising to the level Considerable in areas typically exposed to foehn winds and in East Tyrol. The major hazard stems from the fresh snowdrift accumulations which are expected to form above approximately 2200 m in the course of the day. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to east facing wind loaded slopes and drifted gullies and bowls. Since the bonding of these snowdrift masses to the old snowpack is poor in general, even minimum additional loading is often sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche. The frequency of danger spots multiplies with increasing altitude.

### SNOW LAYERING

Last night there was a bit of new snow in East Tyrol. The old snowpack has by now given up most of its internal tensions and is no longer prone to triggering. The surface on shady slopes is usually faceted and loosely packed, whereas on steeper south facing slopes there is often a melt freeze crust. Particularly in high alpine regions, the storm strength foehn winds now dominate: slopes blown free of snow or surfaces pressed hard by the winds are often to be found directly adjacent to fully snowdrifted gullies and bowls.

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

Weather conditions in general: a large scale low pressure complex over western Europe places Tyrol in a strong southwesterly airstream. On the northern flank of the Alps, stormy foehn winds will prevail; on the southern flank of the Alps snowfall is expected. Over the coming few days, this southwesterly air current will weaken noticeably. Mountain weather today: stormy foehn winds. In the Rätikon and Silvretta regions a barrier effect will be evident on the southern flank of the Alps, often shrouding the peaks in clouds. Temperatures will be quite mild, although the chill factor will make it appear colder than it is. Temperatures at 2000 m: between minus 7 and minus 4 degrees; at 3000 m: between minus 11 and minus 8 degrees. Strong, and amid gusts often stormy southerly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In high alpine regions and in East Tyrol, the avalanche danger is often considerable.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe