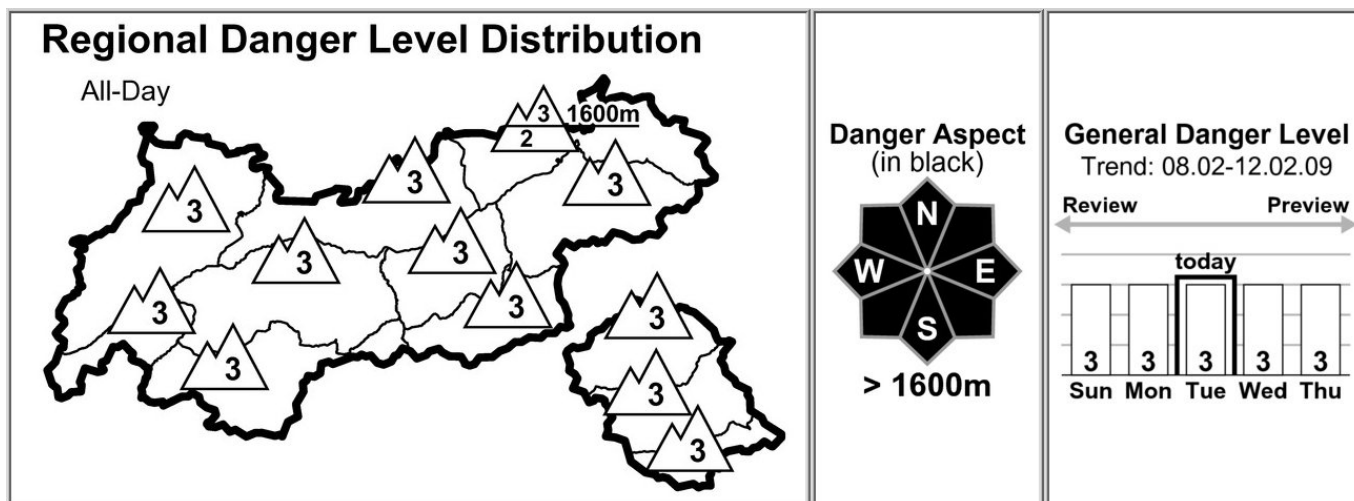


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 10.02.2009, at 07:30



**FOR BACKCOUNTRY SKIERS AND FREERIDERS, CONDITIONS ARE CRITICAL. GENERALLY CONSIDERABLE DANGER.**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol, utterly unfavourable conditions, amid predominantly considerable avalanche danger, prevail for backcountry skiers and freeriders. Both last week's snowdrift accumulations and the freshly formed snowdrift masses require great caution. They are to be found above approximately 1600 m in all aspects and can generally be triggered by minimum additional loading. Due to the ever increasing wind influence, snow transport will lead to an additionally burdened snowpack and can cause naturally triggered avalanches in areas adjacent to ridge lines; these are expected to reach medium size. Assessing the hazards is currently made more difficult by the still loosely packed snow surface which covers over the trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations which formed last week. All in all, conditions currently prevail which make extremely great experience in assessing avalanche hazards imperative in open terrain. The conditions on well frequented routes and slopes are better, but even here, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be consistently avoided.

### SNOW LAYERING

There are two critical bed surfaces for slab avalanches inside the snowpack currently. One of them formed during the extended period of sunny, cold weather before 20 January and consists of generally loosely packed, faceted snow crystals. The new danger stems from the predominantly loosely packed surface which is evident above the treeline and is now blanketed over by freshly formed snowdrift. Snowpack analysis, together with the natural avalanches of recent days, demonstrate that the snowpack is currently highly prone to triggering.

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

General weather conditions: a stormy low pressure zone is moving from the British Isles towards Germany, bringing about a short interim of foehn wind influence in the Alps before the cold front, with strong to stormy winds, arrives. On Wednesday, winds will shift to northwesterly, opening the path for icy arctic air masses. Mountain weather today: highly variable conditions, generally storm-strength winds at high altitudes and in areas exposed to foehn. During the morning hours, the foehn will create passable visibility and bright spells. Fog will increase on the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof. In the afternoon, increasingly frequent snow flurries due to the cold front. Temperatures at 2000 m: minus 1 to minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 to minus 14 degrees. Stormy southwesterly to westerly high altitude winds will reach their zenith at midday/in the afternoon, with gusts of up to 120 to 140 km/h.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Through strengthening winds, more natural avalanches can be expected. The critical conditions for backcountry skiers and freeriders will continue.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe