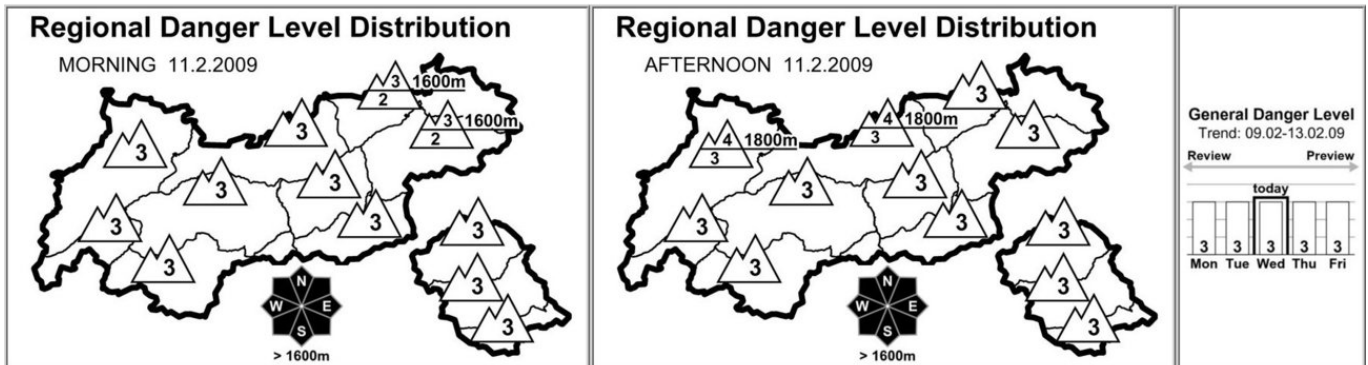


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 11.02.2009, at 07:30



## UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS CONTINUE - IN WESTERN REGIONS, AVALANCHE DANGER ESCALATES FURTHER

### AVALANCHE DANGER

For backcountry skiers and freeriders, thoroughly unfavourable conditions prevail today, amid generally considerable avalanche danger. In the regions which have received the most snow thus far - Arlberg, Ausserfern and the western sector of the Northern Alps - the avalanche danger can easily rise to high due to the forecasted snowfall which will be heavy in places, probably as of afternoon above 1800 m. As of that point, increasingly frequent natural avalanches can be expected in steep terrain adjacent to ridge lines in particular. Most avalanches will attain medium size and are not expected to reach transportation routes. For the entire region of Tyrol, backcountry skiers and freeriders in open terrain must have great experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards. Particularly above approximately 1600 m, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations together with those which formed last week can easily be triggered on steep slopes in all aspects. The situation on much frequented routes and slopes is more favourable, although caution is urged towards freshly snowdrifted steep slopes.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is been heavily impacted by the winds over the last 10 days. Windblown areas nearly free of snow often are directly adjacent to heavily drifted slopes. Both the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations and those which formed amid the foehn winds of last week can easily be unleashed. This is due, on the one hand, to the very loosely packed, faceted bed surface which formed during the long period of sunny weather before 20 January; and on the other, to the loosely packed new fallen snow above approximately 1600 m of last weekend, which also is a potential bed surface for avalanches.

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

General weather conditions: wedged between a low over Poland and a high over the eastern Atlantic, humid arctic air masses are flowing towards the Alps. The clouds cling to the barrier on the northern flank of the Alps, while on the southern flank the northerly winds are creating dryness. Mountain weather today: from the northern Limestone Alps to the Main Alpine Ridge, lots of fog and snow flurries; in the Dolomites and Carnic Alps, bright spells brought about by the northerly winds, and dryness. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 11 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 degrees. The strong northwesterly to northerly winds will slacken off somewhat during the afternoon.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The unfavourable conditions continue for backcountry skiers and freeriders, with considerable avalanche danger far and wide.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe