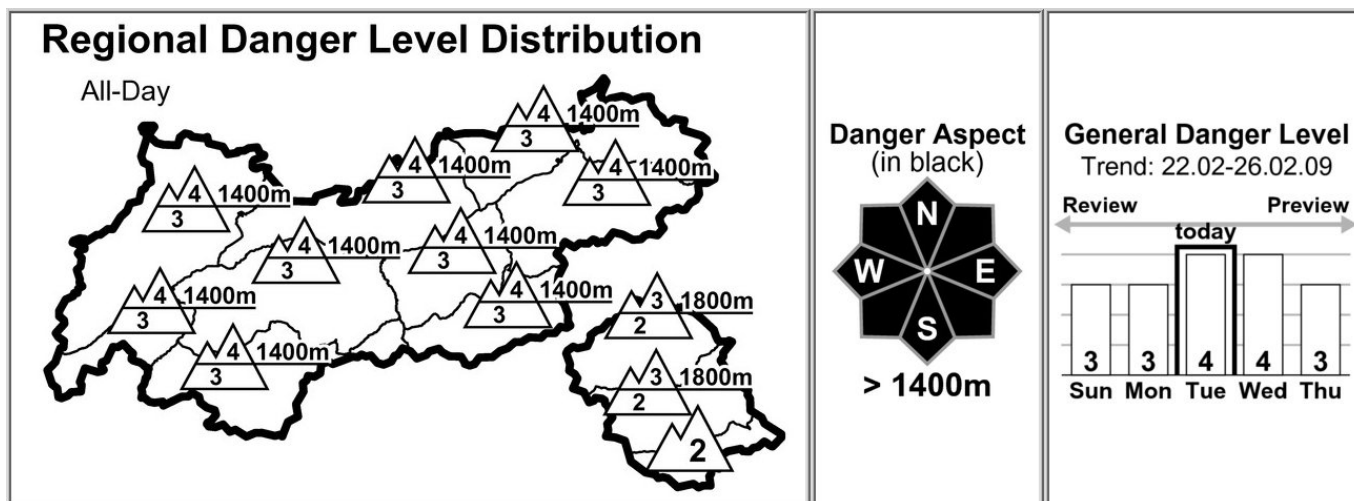


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 24.02.2009, at 11:30



## IN MOST REGIONS OF TYROL, AVALANCHE DANGER IS HIGH

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Contrary to the predictions of early this morning, when it was assumed that the avalanche danger would diminish during the afternoon due to lesser precipitation, the danger level must be raised due to ongoing snowfall. In addition, the danger in the southern regions of North Tyrol must be raised to "high". Increasingly frequent naturally triggered avalanches are expected, particularly on very steep slopes below about 2300 m, especially on west to north to east facing slopes; as well as natural avalanches in regions with heavy recent snowfall, especially on extremely steep slopes near ridge lines, particularly above approximately 2000 m on northeast to east to southwest facing slopes. Natural avalanches can easily endanger exposed parts of transportation routes! For backcountry skiers and freeriders in North Tyrol, extremely unfavourable conditions. Inexperienced skiers should absolutely stay on secured ski runs. The situation in southern East Tyrol is better, although caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in areas adjacent to ridge lines.

### SNOW LAYERING

Numerous snowpack analyses over recent weeks have resulted in a very clear picture of the snow layering: currently most critical is a faceted, loosely packed layer which formed in the period of sunny weather before 19 January. This weak layer is highly fragile and prone to triggering; it can be unleashed merely through the weight of the new fallen snow. This layer is especially pronounced on west to north to east facing slopes below about 2300 m. In addition, a additional, thin, faceted layer is embedded in the snowpack which formed as of 6 February up to approximately 1400 m in all aspects; on east to south to west facing slopes up to approximately 2200 m; on very steep south facing slopes up to about 2600 m. The bonding of new snow to the old snowpack is utterly inadequate throughout Tyrol.

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

General weather conditions: moist air masses are streaming towards the Alps from the northwest today. On Wednesday, an interim high pressure zone will dominate the weather temporarily. Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps and on the Main Alpine Ridge, clouds and snowfall, from the Ortler across the Dolomites to the Carnic Alps, northerly winds and sunshine. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Due to rising temperatures, many natural avalanches are expected tomorrow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe